

## MORMON PRIESTHOOD.

Its Influence Is Felt in Business, in Politics, and in Social Life.

The priesthood can always rely on the women. They have been the strength of the church, even under that system of polygamy which made them "living martyrs." They have the full right of suffrage, and none who is not in accord with the church authorities need look for their support. The men are subject to a constant discipline that keeps them at all times in sympathy with the ambitions of the leaders. There are 1,500 Mormon missionaries now in the foreign work of the church, the brightest of its young men, the future leaders in all matters. They are compelled to sacrifice everything and to labor for two or three years far from home in the interests of their religion, says the North American Review.

None who goes through this experience ever forgets the power of the priesthood, and each understands that if he should show too great a spirit of independence he may be called again to make the sacrifice. No young man in the church may be married in one of the temples unless he is faithful and obedient to his superiors, and no young woman would consider herself married in the sight of God unless she was "sealed" by the proper authorities. In business, in politics, in social life, everywhere, the young man meets the church, and he must be of iron if he dares to stand out against it. Many have done so in the past, but they have been the exceptions. Their numbers have never been sufficient to offset the church itself.

## HER BRIDEGROOM'S UNIFORM.

She Wanted It to Be a Combination of an Admiral's and a General's.

One of the young gentlemen who have just been appointed in the regular army was married only a few weeks ago, and his bride takes a great deal of interest in his uniform. He left his measure with a military tailor here the other day, and the next afternoon when she was out shopping she dropped in to give some instructions as to the manner in which it was to be trimmed, says a Washington letter in the Chicago Record.

She told the tailor she did not like the ordinary uniform of a second lieutenant and desired to have her husband's different. She wanted to have four bands of gold braid around the sleeve, like Admiral Schley has on his, and after critically examining all the shoulder straps she instructed the tailor to put on her husband's coat a pair that had silver birds embroidered on them, because they were prettier than any of the rest.

The tailor tried to advise her that the regulations did not permit a second lieutenant to wear the insignia of an admiral in the navy or those of a colonel in the army, but she declared that if he would not make that uniform the way she wanted she would have her husband patronize somebody else.

## PRAIRIE GIRL'S WEDDING.

She Seldom Takes a Trip, But Goes Direct to Her New Home.

As the prairie girl has grown up with her training along practical lines, so she asks only of her lover that he shall be manly and true, writes Charles Moreau Harger, of "A Girl's Life on the Prairie," in Ladies' Home Journal. "Thousands of acres of land do not make a fortune, and social degrees are practically unknown. The wedding is nearly always at the bride's home. Not ones in threescore times is it at the church. The near relatives and a few dear friends are the guests. The bride's white wedding gown is simply made. Bunches of goldenrod or roses deck the little parlor or sitting-room, and from the organ comes the wedding march. Seldom does a groomsmen or a bride's attendant take part in the ceremony, and more seldom is there a reception afterward. Fortunate indeed are the bride and groom if they can escape a vociferous serenade, for the charivari and the bombardment of rice and old shoes are well-established customs on the plains. The papers usually add to the story of the marriage: "After the wedding supper and congratulations the happy couple drove to their own home, which had already been fitted up for their occupancy."

## CAPTURING STURGEON.

Mounted Russian Cossacks Fish Through the Ice of Swift Rivers.

To fish while mounted on the back of a horse probably would be beyond the capacity of gentle Isaac Walton of delightful memory, yet that is the way sturgeon is captured in the frozen rivers of the Ural mountains. Russian Cossacks fish in large bands, by a foreign paper. They gallop along until they reach the point in the rivers where the current has its swiftest flight. There they dismount and cut into the ice until they have cleared a small pool of water which extends across the rapid current almost from one bank of the river to the other. A net is then sunk to the bottom of the stream and stretched across it at the open pool so that not a single fish can swim beyond its meshes. Then the horses are mounted and the Cossacks turn back and ride along the edge of the river for about four or five miles. Then the band wheels about and gallops rapidly along the ice-covered stream, making a picture that would delight a Schreyer or a Fromentin. The loud cannonade caused by the beating of the horses' hoofs on the surface of the ice terrifies the sturgeon and they swim quickly in swarms into the net that waits their capture.

## DESTRUCTIVE PESTS.

Two Insects That Have Troubled American Farmers.

A Systematic Study Has Been Made of the Chinch Bug and the Hessian Fly—Bleets by the Government.

The two greatest insect pests known to the American farmer have been receiving the careful attention of the division of entomology of the United States department of agriculture for a long time. These are the chinch bug and the Hessian fly. The department has prepared and is about to publish two bulletins treating respectively of the two insects and suggesting possible remedies or checking them.

The bulletin on the chinch bug is entitled "The Chinch Bug; its probable origin and diffusion, its habits and development, natural modes and remedial and preventive measures, with mention of the habits of an allied European species." The bulletin was prepared under the direction of the entomologist of the department, F. M. Webster, entomologist of the Ohio agricultural experiment station. The agricultural department has received many requests for information about the chinch bug, and the bulletin is intended to meet this demand. It gives many new facts concerning its life, history and distribution of its species, and the whole subject of the practical handling of its diseases, in order to assist in its destruction, is treated at length. It says that few insects have caused such pecuniary losses and that no other insect native to the western hemisphere has spread its devastating hordes over a wider area of country with more fatal effect to the staple grains of North America. It is widely distributed over the world and hibernates in the adult stage. It is a gregarious habit and migrates in spring, summer and autumn. When and where it lays its eggs, the period of incubation, the different stages of development, the development and habits of its young, annual generations and food plants, are covered by the bulletin. In addition, it treats of the influence of precipitation and temperature on the insect; its natural enemies; remedial and preventive measures; and describes the true and false chinch bugs.

The bulletin says that it would appear that the pest first made its presence known in this country in North Carolina in 1833, and mentions several serious outbreaks of the bug in the west. The estimated losses from its ravages from 1850 to 1887 reach \$267,000,000. It so says that it is believed that the losses up to 1898 amounted to fully \$330,000,000. The bulletin contains 19 illustrations, including maps, showing areas infested by the chinch bug, and the probable course of its diffusion over North America.

The other bulletin is entitled simply, "The Hessian Fly in the United States." It was prepared under the direction of the department's entomologist by Herbert Osborn, professor of zoology and entomology at the Agricultural college of Ames, Ia., and contains many facts concerning the life, history, food habits and parasitic enemies of this farm pest. The bulletin says that the Hessian fly probably ranks next to the chinch bug as the farm pest in the United States, and that its ravages in other countries have long been known. It received its name in the belief that it had been introduced into this country by the Hessian soldiers during the war of the revolution.

An account of its original habitat, its very wide distribution throughout the wheat-growing districts of Europe and America, and its means of distribution are given in the bulletin, with descriptions of the male and female insects, the eggs, the larval form and development, food plants, natural enemies and remedies. The bulletin also contains a list of all the important papers on the Hessian fly that have appeared in America, and such of the foreign works as are of value to the American student. It is illustrated with a frontispiece, two plates and eight text figures.—N. Y. Sun.

Hourly Visiting by Trained Nurses. A comparatively recent departure in trained nursing is what is called hourly visiting. Until within a year or two it was not possible to secure the services of a trained nurse except by the day or week. Nevertheless, there were very many times when a trained nurse was needed for special duties, such as attendance at operations, attending to dressings, bandaging, bathing and various other duties. To meet these needs the trained nurses in Chicago and other cities arranged several years ago to go for so much an hour. The plan worked well there, and was finally adopted by trained nurses in this city. For cases requiring about six hours the fee is four dollars, for an attendance of one hour one dollar, for each successive hour or fraction thereof 50 cents. The nurse can do a great deal in an hour, and the patients who are unable to have her services constantly have found the new arrangement a great convenience.—N. Y. Sun.

An Island of Mushrooms. Washington possesses just now a little wonder of the world in the form of a most phenomenal growth of several edible species of mushrooms. This wonder can be found on the island in the Potomac on the south side of the bathing beach, and west of the long bridge. The rich soil made in recent years by the dredgings of the river has produced a luxuriance of growth of fungi that can probably not be seen anywhere else, and if they continue to increase in the ratio they have done these last few months we may venture to state that the entire island will soon be one solid mass of edible rooms.—Washington Star.

## THE OYSTER AS FOOD

Was Considered a Necessity by Primitive Man.

Regarded by Modern Man with as Much Favor—Opinions of Scientists as to Their Healthfulness.

The recent experiments which have been carried on in England with regard to the fitness of the oyster as a food product have produced some rather alarming results for the consideration of the lovers of the "luscious bivalve."

It appears that we are in as much danger from bacteria and other small and awful things when we eat oysters as when we quietly kiss our girl or somebody else's. Still, we can hardly think that the evil effect of either has been very great, for both pleasures have been indulged in from the remotest antiquity. Man probably ate oysters as early as any sort of animal food.

As far back as the time just following the glacial epoch, when all the northern hemisphere was covered by an enormous ice cap many thousand feet in thickness, there is evidence that the then primitive, uncultured man, who did not even know how to use tools, ate oysters. Judging from the amount of them he consumed he apparently enjoyed them. The evidence as to this point is found in the great "kitchen middens" located all along the eastern coast of North America and at many points on the coast of Europe.

These so-called "middens" are nothing more than the heaps of refuse incident on the housekeeping arrangements of primitive man. They are of enormous extent and thickness, and are principally made up of the broken shells of various sorts of shellfish, sea urchins, etc. In these great shell heaps oyster shells largely predominate, and from this it is seen that early man liked his oyster, and from the half shell, too.

It has always been a matter of great wonder how the first man to eat an oyster came to do such a rash thing. There have been many legendary and poetical accounts of how this came about. One has it that a man one day walking along the seashore accidentally kicked an old oyster shell, which at once opened wide its valves, allowing the man to get a glimpse of the beautiful cream-colored layers that shone within.

His curiosity aroused, the man immediately put his thumb and finger into the opening so that he might take a closer look at the contents. The fingers were, of course, pinched severely and soon as released applied to the mouth to soothe the wound. The pain was instantly forgotten and its place taken by a delicious stimulation of the sense of taste.

Very shortly the first oyster was eaten. Another story makes the act of eating the first oyster a punishment.

Ever since, men have gone on eating oysters. They formed the first dish at the classic banquet of the Romans. Vitellius ate oysters all day long and the idea prevailed that he could eat a thousand at one sitting. Galienus, the philosopher, was a passionate oyster eater. To another Roman, Sergius Orata, we owe the original idea of the oyster park. He invented the oyster pond, in which he bred oysters, not for his own table, but for profit.

Among modern celebrities whose love for oysters is recorded there is Louis XI., who feasted the learned doctors of the Sarbonne once a year on oysters. Another Louis gave to his cook an order of nobility for his skill in cooking them, and it is recorded of Napoleon that he always partook of the bivalve, when they could be procured, on the eve of his great battles.

Whatever the scientists may say in regard to the possible poisonous effects of the bacteria, it is certain that there is no more easily digested food than the oyster. One hundred and ninety-two oysters contain an amount of nutriment equal to 12 ounces of dry nitrogenized substance, and as this is the amount of food necessary for the support of a man for a day, it follows that if he were to live entirely on oysters he would have to eat 192 a day.

This very fact of their small nutritive power explains their extreme digestibility. All other known food substances will under certain conditions cause indigestion, but oysters have never been known to do so.—Philadelphia Press.

Novel Dancing Contest. There was recently a discussion in Rome as to the number of steps which an expert dancer could make in a given time, and, in order to decide the matter definitely, it was arranged to give a ball and to award prizes to those dancers who excelled in this respect. The competition began at ten o'clock in the evening and ended at five o'clock next morning. At the close it was found that the best record had been made by a woman, who had danced 25,000 steps, and that next to her came another woman, who had danced 21,000 steps. To these two, therefore, the first and second prizes were awarded. The record of the men who competed was not satisfactory, as not one of them succeeded in dancing even as many as 15,000 steps. If we reckon that two dance steps are equivalent to one step which a person takes when walking we shall find that the lady who won the first prize and who was crowned queen of the ball covered at least two miles during the seven hours that she was dancing.—N. Y. Herald.

Dead Man's Debt. In essence, if a person dies leaving sufficient money to pay his debts, the doctor's bill is settled first, and then the rest of the deceased's liabilities are paid with.—N. Y. Sun.

## LIME FOR THE SOIL.

One form of lime, gypsum, has been shown to be a most effective corrective of black alkali, found in some parts of the United States.

It is impossible to state definitely for all locations and conditions what form of lime is cheapest to use. Caustic, or quicklime, is the most concentrated form and consequently the most economical to handle.

Lime in the form of carbonate of lime, as in marl, wood-ashes, etc., can usually be applied with safety in the spring or at any other season of the year, but autumn is always the safest time to apply caustic or slacked lime.

The use of lime as a soil improver is very ancient, and its value for this purpose is generally recognized. Its action as a fertilizer is both direct and indirect. There are many soils in which lime is deficient, notably in soils derived from granite, mica schist, and sandstone formations. On such soils lime is of direct value in supplying a necessary element of plant food.

The frequency with which liming should be practiced depends, among other things, upon the character of the soil and the rate of application, the number of years involved in the rotation practiced, the plants grown and their order of succession. As a general rule, it may be stated that from one-half to one and one-half tons of lime per acre every five or six years is sufficient.—American Gardening.

## HOW DISHES WERE NAMED.

The sandwich is called for the earl of Sandwich.

Mulligatawny is from an East Indian word meaning pepper water.

Waffle is from wafel, a word of Teutonic origin, meaning honeycomb.

Honiny is from an unnameable, the North American word for parched corn.

Gooseberry fool is a corruption of gooseberry foule, milled or pressed gooseberries.

Force-meat is a corruption of farce-meat, from the French farce, stuffing, i. e., meat for stuffing.

Succotash is a dish borrowed from the Narragansett Indians and called by them usickquatash.

Blancmange means literally white food; hence chocolate blancmange is something of a misnomer.

Charlotte is a corruption of the old English word charlyt, which means a dish of custard, and charlotte russe is Russian charlotte.

Macaroni is taken from a Greek derivation, which means "the blessed dead," in allusion to the ancient custom of eating it at feasts for the dead.

Gumbo is simply okra soup, gumbo being the name by which okra is often known in the south. Chicken gumbo is soup of okra and chicken.

## CONCERNING WOMEN.

The two banks of Burlington, Wis., are managed by women.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe's reminiscences, to be published soon, will be accompanied by a volume of her poems, partly selections from former collections and partly verses not before published. It is entitled "From Sunset Ridge; Poems Old and New."

Mrs. Martha McCullagh Williams, New York, won the first prize of \$300 in a short-story contest recently closed by the S. S. McClure syndicate. There were over 2,000 competitors, representing every state in the union. The third prize—\$100, also went to a woman, a Miss Pitt, of Nebraska.

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont is said to be well versed in architecture and household decoration. Some of this knowledge Mrs. Belmont has applied to the building of her new home at Hempstead, Long Island. The only part of the house which, by authority in landscape-gardening, is pronounced not entirely satisfactory is that which she left to an artist.

## RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The Presbyterian board of foreign missions has commissioned this year 32 new missionaries to the foreign field.

Australia is to have a Catholic congress about Easter time in 1900 on the lines of those held in Fribourg, Brussels and other continental cities.

Some of the chaplains on American vessels of war at Manila have begun holding regular Protestant services in private dwellings in the city of Manila. These are the first Protestant services in the Philippine islands.

The first time that Christian instruction in the Tibetan language was given in Darchula in public was March 26. The occasion was Children's day. The leader was Dr. Martha Sheldon.

Every summer for 67 years the Methodists of New York and vicinity have conducted revival services for a period of ten days at the famous camp meeting grounds on Sing Sing Heights on the Hudson.

## FACTS OF VARIOUS KINDS.

It takes more than 12,000 election officers to man the precincts in New York.

The emperor of China has to fast 64 days in each year for the sake of religion.

The United States mail service across the Rainy river, at Koochiching, Minn., has been discontinued. The result is that a letter posted there for Fort Frances, half a mile distant on the Canadian side, has to travel 1,250 miles and takes eight days to reach its destination.

A Funeral Reform association has been organized in London. Its views are thus expressed: "No darkened house, no durable coffin, no special mourning attire, no brick grave, no unnecessary show, no avoidable expense and no unusual eating or drinking."

Fast Growth of Turnip Seed. A turnip seed increases its own weight 15 times in a minute. On peat ground turnips have been found to increase by growth, 15,999 times the weight of their seed each day they stood upon the soil.—Chicago Chronicle.

## BEGGING BY LETTER.

American Millionaires Are Annoyed Through the Mails.

Many Such Missives Received Every Day Are Considerately Treated by Their Rich Recipients.

Rated in accordance with the number of begging letters received, Miss Helen Gould would probably be ranked first among the men and women of New York who measure their wealth by millions, though this was not so, perhaps, till after she had begun her remarkable work of relieving the wants of the soldiers.

Miss Gould treats her begging mail with much more respect than do most persons of large wealth, for, unless engaged with other matters, she reads every letter asking for financial aid on the same day it is received, setting aside a certain part of each 24 hours for its perusal in company with her private secretary. Many of these letters, most of them, in fact, are so palpably fakes that no serious attention is paid to them, yet so sincerely courteous and considerate of the feelings of others is Miss Gould that a polite answer is sent by the next post to nearly every letter-writing alms asker.

Miss Gould's begging mail must call for a preposterous annual aggregate of charity nowadays, for it has almost doubled within the last six months, and the total asked for in gifts by letter in the year 1897 was footed up by her private secretary was a little more than \$1,000,000 or about \$2,740 a day.

How much she actually gives out for charity not even her private secretary knows, many benefactions being extended by Miss Gould in absolute secrecy.

Though richer than she by a goodly number of millions, her brother George does not receive nearly so many begging letters, nor does he open his hand so freely as she, yet his begging mail is something enormous, and the number of favorable responses is greater than is generally supposed.

How the younger of the two immensely rich Rockefeller brothers treats his begging mail has never leaked out, but John D. Rockefeller and his family are known to give it a great deal of their personal attention.

They look after it at breakfast time, when every member of the family present takes his share of the letters asking for favors, scans them, and later reads them aloud to the others. A good proportion of all the Rockefeller letters are inconsequential, as a matter of course, and these receive little discussion. This is true also of the few which add threats to their pleadings, for the Rockefellers have long been case-hardened to this sort of epistle, like most other modern millionaires. Letters full of unconscious humor, and those in which the writers strive to make their point by being purposely humorous are more common than those of sinister import. Fewest of all, as might be imagined, are the letters which seem really worthy.

These always receive the most respectful consideration, often being discussed at length and sometimes almost formally, it being comparatively common after a good deal has been said pro and con as to the merits of the appeal, for some member of the family to "move the request be granted" or "investigated" or "dropped." In such cases the fate of the petitioner is often decided by a vote, but it not infrequently happens that the asked-for relief is granted in spite of an adverse vote, by some member of the family who believes the case deserving in spite of the burden of opinion the other way.

Notwithstanding his uncharitable reputation, Uncle Russell Sage gets a big begging mail, though it is smaller than that received by Mrs. Sage. She told a friend one day that Mr. Sage receives more requests for favors on western railroads in which he is interested than for any other sort of benefaction, and that he is forever agreeing to haul freight free for some man who has suffered a loss of crops, or sending passes to some one who has made a mess of it in the west and wants to get east again, or helping to buy seed for a farmer who finds the world temporarily against him.

Still, the general impression that Mrs. Sage is more open-handed than her husband is undoubtedly correct, her benefactions, given entirely without ostentation, as a rule, aggregating many thousands of dollars a year. Russell Sage himself has only one serious objection to submitting to a general newspaper interview, and it is that every article detailing such an interview is followed by an enormous increase in his begging mail.—N. Y. Press.

American Citizens Who Get "Orders." King Oscar of Sweden and Norway has conferred the order of Vasa on August Peterson, of Washington, in recognition of his services in founding colonies of his countrymen in America.

The order was instituted by Gustavus II in 1772, to recompense persons who have rendered the state distinguished services, and the honor is rarely conferred outside of Sweden. Col. Vifquain, who succeeds William J. Bryan in command of the Third Nebraska regiment, has been created a mandarin and invested with the order of the Double Dragon by the emperor of China. "In recognition," says the Chinese ambassador, "of the valuable services he rendered his majesty's subjects while United States consul-general at Panama (1895)."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Health-Giving Bacteria. Dr. H. S. Gabbett comes to the defense of germs, which are not all microbes of disease and death, but for the most part indispensable to life and health. A soil sterilized to bacteria would be sterile in every other sense.—Nineteenth Century.

## OVER THE MARSHES.

How Engineers Build Railroads on Mud Foundations.

Bottomless Bogs Are Bridged Over by the Use of Brush Mattresses—Some Difficult Undertakings.

The sinking of a section of the main line of the South Pacific Coast (narrow gauge) railroad a short distance south of the bridge across the entrance to San Leandro bay opens up a new problem in railroad engineering to be solved. The roadbed traverses the salt marshes bordering the bay almost all the way from Alameda to Alviso, and in some parts these marshes are very soft and cut in every direction by sloughs. In many parts the roadbed lies on a foundation of mud, to which there is apparently no bottom; but so long as there is no room for the mud to shift or no agent at work undermining it the roadbed stays in place. The company has had much trouble, however, where the recent subsidence occurred. It has subsided on more than one occasion before, and it has taken a lot of new material each time to bring it up to grade. The difficulty grows out of the fact that the road embankment at that particular point is swept at its base by a swift tidal current, which undermines the soft mud stratum and causes the roadbed to slip in a body out of sight, leaving the rails and ties hanging in the air. The troublesome current is said to have a velocity of 15 or 16 miles an hour. It is intended to control it by damming the source, thus holding the water brought by the rising tide into the depressed marsh land in the neighborhood by preventing its outflow.

The marshes in the neighborhood of San Francisco and adjacent perplexed railroad builders. The spots the mud attempts to sound it is the discovery of no bottom points on the north arm of the bay of San Antonio—that is, the arm connecting Oakland creek with Lake Merritt—where the steam railroads serving Oakland cross, there is at least 110 feet of soft mud. There the engineers were forced to rely on suction to support the resting, and the splined piles in the middle of the First street railroad crossing are said to be 110 feet in length and are held solely by the suction of the mud itself.

All the piling constituting the foundation of the ferry building at the foot of Market street and much of the piling driven into the made land on which the foundations of most of the big buildings in the lower Market street building rest are held in place by suction. So powerful is this suction of the soft mud that a pile driven into it so far cannot be budged by the strokes of the heaviest rippers used in pile driving, and the end of it will broom under the blows.

The builders of the California Pacific railroad encountered much trouble with a section of soft marsh land adjacent to Suisun. Time after time the entire roadbed sunk not only out of sight but out of soundings also, and a stable foundation was only acquired after repeated filling in, the lower stratum of material being held in suspension, it is believed, in the body of the mud, suction preventing it from subsiding further.

The engineer of the Valley railroad has made a mattress foundation for the roadbed over the Martinez and San Joaquin marshes like the mattress foundation which Capt. Eads adopted for the levees constructed by him at the mouth of the Mississippi river. These mattresses are made of brush bound together with wire and laid on the surface of the marsh. Dredgers then lift the mud out of the trenches on either side and deposit it on these mattresses, thus forming an embankment that will carry, when thoroughly settled, many times the weight it will ever be required to carry. These mattresses distribute the weight evenly over so large an area of the soft mud underlying the marsh that it does not perceptibly affect it, and the embankment is practically as secure and permanent as if it were built on a foundation of rock.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Searching for a King's Body. Ever since last autumn an agitation has been going on in the Neapolitan province in connection with the supposed resting place of King Joachim Murat, and schemes have been set on foot by living representatives of the Murat family to exhume and provide a proper monument for the body of the unfortunate monarch. Researches were begun recently in the Church of St. George the Martyr, at Pizzo, near Naples, where Murat is known to have been buried after his execution on October 13, 1815, in the castle of that city. The common burial place was opened after due precautions had been taken by the sanitary authorities, but no positive result could be arrived at, as it was found that the burying place in the vaults of the church had been filled with the bodies of victims of the cholera epidemic of 1837, and that it was impossible to distinguish the body of a king from those of persons subsequently interred. The researches have therefore been suspended, the vaults sealed up, and a report drawn up and signed by the local authorities and the representatives of the family to the effect that further investigations are useless. All the expenses of the researches have been borne by the government.—London Post.