

THE COST OF FIREWORKS.

Various Causes Here Explained Here Caused a Defeat. (Special Correspondence.)

New York, June 21.—Bumors have appeared in the many newspapers of a shortage in the supply of fireworks for the coming Fourth of July.

The importation of fireworks has increased considerably during the last six years, and it is not an exaggeration to say that the consumption of the same exceeds that of any other article.

For a few years prices of fireworks have been very low. There has been a profit in them, and many of the importers have become disgraced and have cut their orders down.

In December a ship was lost which had on board about 7000 boxes. As it takes a vessel four or five months to reach New York, the loss was hard to replace.

Furthermore, a extensive labor trouble made the Chinese merchants indifferent sellers; they were afraid of signing contracts about which they were not sure of being able to fulfill.

The price asked for the small fireworks is \$1.25 per box wholesale. This is higher than it has been at this time of the year for several years; but in 1882-83 the price ranged from \$1.40 to \$2, and before that \$1.75 was paid.

The tariff law of 1890 reduced the duty to about 20 cents a box, but under the McKinley administration it was restored to 40 cents per box, and if the McKinley tariff bill passes it will be about 30 cents a box.

There is not a branch of knowledge that this girl so fresh from college has not made herself familiar with, from Plato down to pie; but it is for her learning that she fills us men with yearning—because she is a woman, and that's just the reason why.

THE SWEET GIRL GRADUATE.

She has wrestled with the sage of the dimly lit ages, she has studied دکلمة from Donatoni to Barbe; she has sounded Schopenhauer and been under Dante's power; and she glides in all languages from English down to Turk.

She can argue in the arena, know the history of algebra, and will go way back to Adam to elucidate her views.

She can bring up illustrations she's obtained from divers nations on the somewhat strained relations of the Christians and the Jews.

From old Socrates to Spencer she has read and read and knows her intellectual attainments are a wonder to be seen.

In the angles she's a terror and in art she makes no partner, and she knows the mental value of the backpocket Boston team.

She has conquered all knowledge. She can show that old man Piny was in some respect a dummy; she has smothered at Arcadia and brought Tullius to task; she's revealed the lines of Solon, knows the value of a cubic inch and can calculate the contents of the Diplomat's famous case.

She has studied up on deities, has explored the politics of India, knows the views of Hobbes and Bacon and of Paine and their crew; she can quote from Pappus' diary and knows Pope's maxim and has followed Billy Goshawk and read Burton on the aines.

There is not a branch of knowledge that this girl so fresh from college has not made herself familiar with, from Plato down to pie; but it is for her learning that she fills us men with yearning—because she is a woman, and that's just the reason why.

THE LAST OF A RELIGION. Sale of the Sandemanian Meeting House at Danbury.

For various reasons a religious denomination has ceased to exist. It was known as the Sandemanian sect, and was founded in 1763 by Robert Sandeman, a native of Scotland, who, in the year named, became a resident of Danbury, Conn.

After a few months, however, he removed to Boston where he established his first church. In 1795 he returned to Danbury and superintended the erection of another meeting house, a picture of which is given herewith.

This, the last remaining bit of property standing in the name of the Sandemanian society in America, was sold at auction the other day. On this side of the ocean only four adherents to the faith still live, and the youngest of these is over 60 years old.

Sandeman died in 1771, and the above his grave bears this inscription: Here lies, until the resurrection, the body of Robert Sandeman, a native of Perth, Perthshire, who, in the face of continued opposition from all sorts of men, long boldly contended for the ancient faith—that the bare work of Jesus Christ, without a deed or thought on the part of man, is sufficient to prevent the chief of sinners from being lost.

He left his country, he left his friends, and sought a quiet life in the wilderness, and he died in the faith, and he is buried in the earth, and he will rise again.

One of the peculiarities of the Sandemanian form of worship is that they have a weekly love feast in which the whole congregation take part. Here they also pray and sing, and the lines of brotherly passes between members of both sexes. From this custom they have derived the name "Feasters." Their rules prohibit games of chance, prayer at funerals, and the use of tobacco, and as most Nineteenth century inventions, while in food they are forbidden to use flesh meat and "all things strangled."

Where They Have Hot Weather. On the principle that misery loves company Americans who have to endure the discomfort of particularly torrid sections of the country will be glad to know that the summer supply of caloric at any place on this continent begins to equal that possessed by a strip of territory in the southwest of Persia.

During July and August the temperature at that unfavored land never falls below 100 degrees in the shade, and often runs as high as 130 of an afternoon.

The Back Bay Bridge. The bridge across Boston Back bay to Cambridge, completed not long ago, is a fine example of the way the problem of communication between nearby communities is solved.

When a Turkish mother is married the wedding is a complex affair, the bride being chosen by the bridegroom's nearest female relative, and after the ceremony the bride is cut off entirely and forever from her father's home.

The Art of Conversation. Young Gent this first appearance at a ball, to elderly friend—What am I to talk to my partner about?

Friend—Her beauty. Young Gent—But if she doesn't happen to be beautiful?

Friend—No matter, she'll take your word for it—Schore's Familienblatt.

His Reign is Over. The cousin sighs indeed to see That summer does await him, And lately learns that he Is but a season's state man.

SCIENCE AND PROGRESS.

SIMPLE SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS AND ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Scientific and Curious Experiments in Optics as Graphically Illustrated by Nature and Fully Explained in Popular Science News.

Take a piece of cardboard or opaque paper, and place a small object on hole through it, about the diameter of the head of a large pin. On holding the opening before the eye and looking through it, the first effect noticed will be that the depth of focus of the eye is greatly improved.

Objects can be placed very near to the eye and seen plainly, while if viewed in the usual way they would be indistinct. At the same time distant objects can be seen with clearness. The effect of the minute opening placed before the eye is exactly the same as when a photographer puts a "stop" in front of his objective, to increase depth of focus and clearness of definition, but a loss of illuminating power.

covered suburb, and an expressman piled his household effects in a promiscuous heap upon the floor. My time was completely taken up with the sordid cares of earning my daily bread, so I hired a man to settle my home for me. I did not dream of the disinterested attention I would miss by unpacking by proxy.

When I returned home in the evening I found a bread basket filled with cards left by callers. The hired man said that oceans of sweetness had been wasted upon him by mistake. He had been mistaken for the new arrival. I called my homelike wife to my side and sought to comfort her by the show of welcome indicated by the card basket.

I spread the cards upon my table, intending to prepare a list of streets and get ready to return the calls. I found that to return my calls would be a costly and difficult task. There were in the lot nine—"only first class butchers"—who wished me goodspeed and my trade.

Ten dealers in "choice family groceries" assured me that each name on the list was the most reliable caterer to the wants of the hungry man.

Three coal merchants each vouched for himself that he gave "full weight" on his wares.

Seven dairymen announced that they had a few prime Jersey cows which gave pure cream at ten cents a quart. An Italian desired to inform me that when it came to emptying swill tubs and ash barrels he was an artist of the first magnitude. Price, thirty-five cents a month.

A Chinaman desired me to know that he could cover up more shirt with starch and blueing and make a shirt as uncomfortably stiff as any abroad eyed son of a gun in the kingdom.

One card, more suggestive than all of the rest, informed me that the owner of the address attached would pay for second hand furniture and carpets than any other man in the business. I thought it a little inopportune for one to make a bid on my personal effects.

I looked in vain for the card of a pawnbroker or an undertaker. But these were about the only branches of industry not represented. I presume these thought I would have occasion to seek them out in due time.

High Farrar Madermott's Youth. New York, June 12.—It is hard to speak kindly, still harder to speak critically, of such a man as the late Hugh Farrar Madermott. One who did not know him intimately would be entirely incapable of telling the world what manner of man he was whom we have just lost.

Those who did know him are almost incapacitated by reason of their sorrow from estimating him justly, or writing such a story of his life as should pass into history as the true record of the life of a true genius.

Such Madermott was. The clear vision, and the blindness; the simple directness, and the erratic waywardness; the inspired utterance, and the childlike petulance; the divine gifts, and the human shortcomings of genius were all his.

While it may not be remembered as one of the greater geniuses of the human family, it must come to pass that his memory will be cherished by those who knew him as the image of some fair, lovely child, whom the world could not spoil, whose very faults made him the dearer to his friends.

Hugh Farrar Madermott was born in Ireland, near Enniskillen, on the 16th of August, 1824.

The father, Thomas Gould Madermott, was a dealer in grain, and during the famine of 1846 and 1847 he was a heavy loser, finally becoming seriously involved that he gathered up what means he had left and came to America with his family to make a new start in life.

He purchased a homestead in Dorchester, Mass., and Hugh, then a boy of 15, was placed in Judge Brigham's office to study law. The elder Madermott, however, died soon afterward, and the boy turned to the press for a living.

Madermott's writing, immature as it was, was promising enough to attract the attention of Isaac W. Fry, then the managing editor of The Boston Courier, who determined to train him thoroughly, and put him at type setting.

Even at that early period Madermott was a typical Bohemian of the highest class, and afflicted readily, as he did all through his life, with the clearest and wildest of the writers of the day. It so came about that before the days of the famous New York Bohemian club of 1856 to '59 he was associated with "Artemus Ward," "Mrs. Partington" and "Miles O'Reilly" as contributor to The Carpet Bag.

It was in 1858 that he went to California. There, notwithstanding his youth, he became a figure and was an influential member of the famous vigilance committee. In 1857 he returned to New York and took up the stick for a living, but his pen was never idle. His poetry soon won recognition, and for many years afterward his life was a succession of successes. His best known poem is "My Blind Canary."

A TENDERFOOT'S WELCOME. Some of the Pleasures of Being a New Arrival. (Special Correspondence.)

SAN FRANCISCO, June 7.—I had heard much said in praise of the social qualities of the unconventional west, and particularly of California, but I was not quite prepared for such a cordial greeting as I received upon my first day as a resident of Alameda. I found a home on one of the handsome avenues of that rose em-

ITALY. Before they got Sapolio. The proverb ran—"The pan says to the pot, keep off or you'll smutch me."

If your grocer sends you anything in place of SAPOLIO, send it back and insist upon having just what you ordered. SAPOLIO always gives satisfaction. On floors, tables and painted work it acts like a charm. For scouring pots, pans and metals it has no equal. Everything shines after it, and even the children delight in using it in their attempts to help around the house.

ENOCH MORGAN'S SONS CO., NEW YORK.

WHAT SHALL WE WEAR? NEW STYLES INTRODUCED FOR THE SUMMER OF 1890.

Two Pleasing Coiffures—A Dressy Effect for Evening and a Simple, Graceful Style for Day Wear—Together They Offer a Decided Contrast.

In the accompanying cut we present two styles in hair dressing which will doubtless find favor with our lady readers. Fig. 1 illustrates what is known as the coiffure classique, and is designed for evening dress. This carries out the prevailing Greek style, with the addition of waves and loops of hair arranged so as to fall to the nape of the neck, but closely following the contour of the head. This produces an exceedingly dressy effect.

The remaining figure shows the coiffure matinee, designed for day or evening wear, simple and graceful. This style will be welcomed by many ladies to whom the high style of hair dressing is not becoming. It is a decided improvement over stiff, formal plaits.

Summer Gowns. It will be the fashion to show a great deal of neck this summer, writes Miss Mantalini in Pall Mall Budget. All the summer dresses are cut remarkably low. Some are finished off in a quaint fashion with a lace or muslin ruffe; others are shaped like a V in front. This is a pretty style for a girl, but it is utterly unsuited for a woman out of the twenties. I have seen some charming frocks in spotted or striped muslin for youthful wearers. An example was of white muslin, with a pink flower. The bodice was made with a pink fold, and a yoke ran into tiny tufts. It fitted inside the skirt. This dress was cut very low at the neck and ornamented with a linen ruffe. The blouse sleeves had ruffles at the wrists.

Summer Fashions for Little Girls. There are many pretty fashions for little folk this season, some of which we present in the accompanying illustrations. Attention is called to the pelisse in embroidered



FIG. 1.—EXPERIMENTS IN OPTICS. Amore curious experiment may be shown by holding the card between the eye and a strong light—a lamp shade, for instance, or a window curtain through which a bright light is shining. Then hold a pin between the eye and the hole in the card, as shown in Fig. 1. The head of the pin will be visible, but reversed, as shown in Fig. 1. This cause is explained in the accompanying diagrams of the eye (Fig. 2), where 1 represents the eye as seen under ordinary conditions; the rays of light from the pin are refracted by the lenses of the eye so that they cross each other, giving a reversed image on the retina. In fact, we really see everything upside-down, and it is probably only on account of long experience that we perceive objects in their natural position, just as the photographer soon forgets that the images formed on the ground glass of his camera are reversed, but selects his points of view and poses his sitters without thinking of the inverted position in which they appear.

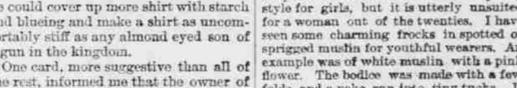


FIG. 2.—EXPERIMENTS IN OPTICS. In 2, however, the conditions are changed. The illuminated opening in the card acts as an independent source of light, and casts the shadow of the pin directly upon the retina; the head of the pin being smaller than the pupil of the eye, and being held so close to it that the shadow is cast directly upon the retina, without the usual reversal of the image, which, therefore, appears to our mind as upright. In other words, it is really in an upright position; this automatic correction by the eye or brain of the images thrown upon the retina is a curious fact, and cannot be said to be fully understood.

Wood Wool. A machine for making wood wool is being used in England. According to The Commercial Advertiser, wood wool is coming rapidly into favor among manufacturers of glass, cutlery, confectionery, etc., for packing purposes on account of its cleanliness and non-hygroscopic properties, but its adoption is hindered, among other things, by its comparatively high price. The new machine is intended to reduce the price, for it is of such size and design that any manufacturer can have one working on his premises, and can thus turn out his own wood wool. Very little attention is required by the machine, and all the parts are easy to renew. Timber of any consistency can be cut, and waste pieces can also be utilized.

Mixed Fuel for Engines. At Specimens experiments have just been made on the Italian man-of-war Messaggero, with a view to ascertaining the speed attainable with coal and petroleum mixed for fuel. They are said to have resulted in solving the problem of obtaining a certain and high velocity at a given moment. The Messaggero, which never before surpassed fifteen knots an hour, reached almost twenty knots in the progress of combustion. The engineers, however, complain that the immense heat generated affects the boilers injuriously.

To Prevent the Slipping of Belts. One good way to prevent belts from slipping is to paint the face of the pulley. This can be done, says The Industrial World, by using hot asphaltum or white lead made very thin with turpentine. It will adhere well if allowed to dry thoroughly. A thicker coat of white lead and oil should then be applied, and allowed to dry thoroughly before being used. These coatings will not scale off if properly applied.

Scientific Brevities. Experiments are said to have proved that where electric lights have been used in place of oil lamps for lighting the compasses of vessels at night, an incandescent lamp brought close to the compass caused a deflection of the needle.

For a water proof glue soak in a cool place half a pound of glue for one night in a quart of good milk, and boil it the next day.

The manufacture of paper from moss is reported from Sweden. The paper is hard as wood and can easily be painted and polished.

A project for building a canal from the sea coast to Brussels will, if carried out, make that city practically a sea port.

Again it is announced that the photographing of colors has been achieved, this time by an Austrian.

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powerful suburb, and an expressman piled his household effects in a promiscuous heap upon the floor. My time was completely taken up with the sordid cares of earning my daily bread, so I hired a man to settle my home for me. I did not dream of the disinterested attention I would miss by unpacking by proxy.

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LA MAN.

One of Governor Hill's friends was walking with him in his private room at the capital one day when a delegation of four women marched in. Several members of the legislature were waiting to see the governor, but the amazonian delegation proceeded as once towards the desk.

"Look at this procession," observed Mr. Hill. "I would like you were governor for about twenty minutes."

The delegation in the meantime had approached within ear shot, when the governor hurriedly arose, and exclaimed to his friend: "If you will stop back in the private office for a moment I will show you that picture we were talking about and before the astonished women could gather their senses together the governor and his friend were behind the closed door."

"I merely wanted to escape those women," he explained, deprecatingly. "Verily a handsome retreat in the face of a determined enemy!"—Speech.

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