

CURRENT COMMENT.

PAPER is made in France from the best linen, and it is claimed that the best secured is the best substitute for rags yet obtained, as it possesses great length, strength, flexibility and delicacy.

Boston has an apple mission which distributes 4,000 or 5,000 bushels of apples among the poor every year. Comparison with this scheme ought to make the average tract society go off and shoot itself.

In Paris, an electric lamp fed with a portable accumulator has been selected and rendered obligatory for use in working leaks in gas pipes. It is probable that many disastrous explosions will thus be avoided.

The only organized church among the Zulus of South Africa has adopted as one of its rules: "No member of this church shall be permitted to drink the white man's gin, or native beer, or touch it with his lips."

In the public schools of Greece the four Gospels of the New Testament are used as a reader by the children of the most advanced classes of the primary department, and the new Minister of Education proposes to extend their use into the higher schools.

The number of sheep in the United States is 31,000,000. That is about a sheep apiece for us, but we were obliged to import during the past year over 78,000,000 pounds of wool in order to supply the demand for home use and what little of manufactured stuffs we are able to sell to outsiders.

Beautiful fans are made entirely of the plumage of tropical birds in their natural colors. A web of feather cloth is formed by gluing the plumage, each fan feather separately, upon silk fabric. This gives the texture the precise appearance of a living bird. The tops are tipped with ostrich feathers.

A MAN who has traveled much says that life in the Northwest winter may be made as comfortable as in any of the cities of the East. He finds that the places where one suffered most in the winter are in latitudes like that of South Carolina, where no reasonable preparations are made for winter.

Mrs. MULLOY, President of Arthur's household in the latter part of the year, was in the city of Albany in time for the reception of Presidential callers on New Year's Day.

There is in New Granada a curious vegetable product known under the name of the inf-plant. Its juice can be used in writing without any previous preparation. The letters traced with it are of a reddish color first, but turn a deep black in a few hours. This juice also spoils steel pens less than common ink.

FIFTY thousand woodchucks have been killed in New Hampshire during the present year, on which the State pays a bounty of ten cents each, making a total for woodchuck killing of \$5,000. Hoarding each woodchuck to weigh five pounds, the total weight of the fifty thousand will approximate a hundred and twenty tons.

CEREMONIES were held at New York to celebrate the centennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The ceremonies have been in progress in London for twenty years. The corps Lady Dicks was burned in a crematory in Dresden, Germany, on October 18, 1874, and her husband, Sir Charles Dicks, is President of one of the British cremation societies.

How rents in Arabia are nearly as low as in a deserted Pennsylvania city. A French traveler mentions his taking a comfortable dwelling at Beryd, consisting of two large rooms on the ground floor and three smaller ones besides a spacious courtyard surrounded by high walls, for all of which he paid thirty-six cents per month.

SP. HENNINGTON is the only railway manager in the world who controls railway reaching across a continent. His road extends from Hampton Falls to Memphis, and from New Orleans to San Francisco, making practically a complete transcontinental line. He also owns a steamship line from New York to Norfolk and New Orleans.

THE organ in the world has been invented by Walk of Ludwigsburg at Riga. This instrument measures thirty-six feet in width, thirty-two feet in height, and contains three hundred and twenty-five pipes, four sounding pipes.

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THE WORLD AT LARGE.

A Summary of the Daily News.

CONGRESSIONAL. The Senate met on December 1st and was promptly called to order. A committee was appointed to wait on the President and inform him that the Senate was ready to receive his message. The President's message was read, and the Senate adjourned until the 15th inst.

IN THE SENATE on the 2d Mr. Sherman, the new Senator from Rhode Island, was sworn in. A resolution offered by Mr. Sherman in relation to the lease of the Hawaiian Islands was discussed. The matter was referred to a committee.

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KILLED BY CRUEL WORDS.

Miss Matilda Gossard, Dr. a Woman to a Suicide's Grave. NEW YORK, N. Y., December 6.—A sad and story, comes from the hills and mountains, comes from the hills and mountains, comes from the hills and mountains.

ROSE BROWN, a very desperate woman, who, like many other women, had been driven to desperation by the loss of her husband, was recently arrested on the charge of murdering her husband. She was found in a state of extreme excitement, and was charged with the murder of her husband.

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THE NATION'S NAVY.

Report of Secretary Chandler—His Ideas of What Our Navy should be. WASHINGTON, December 6.—The annual report of the Secretary of the Navy was made public yesterday. Secretary Chandler's report is a long and able one, and contains many interesting details.

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PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

—Hungarians are said to be greater readers of newspapers than Americans. —Of the Anglican Bishops six are widowers, five are married for the second time and one is living with his third wife.

—Shakespeare's daughter could not write her own name. Her father could write it, but, nearly always spelled it wrong. —Chicago Herald.

—W. H. Murray, who is now running a restaurant in Montreal, says that he is coming out all right, and that the world will hear of him again. —Chicago Daily News.

—Miss M. E. Bradton, the most prolific of English story-writers, in private life is Mrs. Maxwell, and owns up to the fact that her immense fortune has been reached the mature age of fifty-six. —N. Y. Sun.

—A clean and perfect copy of John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," 1678, has been discovered by the British Museum. Only three other copies are known, and but two of these are perfect. —Carleton, ex-Empress of Mexico, spends only a few thousands a year in her mad-house, and the accumulated interest of her immense fortune has become enormous. Her heirs will be her brothers.

—Hon. Flamen Bell, of Cincinnati, retiring from active law practice a few days ago, took down the old sign of "Cass & Bell," hung up more than half a century ago by himself and Samuel P. Chase.

—The Kingpin is the name of the official Chicago paper. It was started in the year 911 as a semi-occasional journal. Then for some centuries it was a weekly paper, and during the present century it became a daily. It publishes three editions, and has six editors, with a circulation of 14,000.

—"Hail Columbia" was written by Joseph Hopkins in the summer of 1792, and it was first called the "President's March." It was always popular when Washington came into the city, and one of the objects of its writing was the cultivation of a patriotic spirit among the people of the new republic. —N. Y. Graphic.

—Lord Derby, father of the present Earl, when a young man, was one of the best speakers in Parliament. He was known as the "Prince Rupert of debate," and seemed so self-possessed that he was incapable of embarrassment. But he said: "When I am about to speak my throat and my ears are as dry as those of a man who is going to be hanged."

—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, a famous medicine, like William Lloyd Garrison in spirit, though unlike him in color, died at Chelsea, Mass., a few days ago. Dr. Brown was born a slave, in Kentucky, in 1818, and at the age of twenty-six years fled to Lake Erie. Many a fugitive was smuggled by him to Canadian shores, his best record being sixty-five in one year. —Boston Journal.

—No person was straw-spelt backwards on the end of his nose. —Cultured young ladies refer to a dead level as a deceased horizontal surface. —Washington Herald.

—A little town up in New York has a skating rink they call "Niagara." It is supposed that they call it that because the people go there to see the "falls." —Washington Herald.

—"Marrying is all right," remarked Fogg, who had attended several weddings lately, "but it is the giving in marriage which I object to. It is too often a mere exchange of words, and information that there are responsible steel manufacturers in this country without providing at present with a necessary number of contracts with the Government for the supply of material for the heaviest guns, if guaranteed an order of \$1,000,000, which will be a great boon to the Government, and a great boon to the manufacturers." —Boston Herald.

—After her grandmother had given her a good scolding, a little mischief was overheard to say to herself: "Somebody is cross in this room; 'tain't me, and 'tain't dolly, and 'tain't katie. I wonder who it is?" —Boston Herald.

—Ouida says: "A girl's love must never be begged, but compelled." "That's all very well; but how to subdue the thick-soled parent of the period is what's bothering our young men just now." —San Francisco News.

—Nidly, just married, espouse an aphorism which he had never heard of before. "Pat, my dear, I will look all right; and sure me, swate, I got it to match our waltz set. It's a mistiche I am, me darlin'." —Philadelphia Call.

—Gogge makes it a point never to print a check's bill. "Why," he says, "if I paid for a bedstead, for instance, it would be mine, and I should be bound to it. A man does not care to die off his own flesh and blood." —Chicago Tribune.

—When you see through me, Uncle John," said Archibald, junior, who was regarded as the smart boy of the town. "No, Archie, and I must say it's a foolish question." "Why, uncle, I thought perhaps you could; I have a pain in my chest." —Golden Days.

—I intended a half-light once. It was in Mexico and I thoroughly enjoyed it. "I am surprised you should enjoy a half-light like that. Don't you think it brutal for a lot of Mexicans to wantonly kill a bull?" "But in this case the bull killed a lot of Mexicans." —Current.

—When a lady living in Chelsea sent to London for a doctor she apologized for asking him to come such a distance. "Don't speak of it," answered the M. D. "I happened to have another patient in the neighborhood, and can thus kill two birds with one stone." —Bismarck Tribune.

—School visitor, examining scholar: "Where is the North Pole?" "I don't know, sir." "Don't know?" "I never asked that you don't know where the North Pole is?" "Why, sir, if Sir John Franklin and Dr. Kane and Captain Hayes and Markham couldn't find it how should I know where it is?" —Making It Pleasant.

—A laundry firm in New York City is getting ahead of Chinese cheap labor by employing women who darn the socks, mend the linen, and sew on the buttons of all garments entrusted to them, charging only the usual laundry prices. —N. Y. Sun.

BURROS AND CANOES.

A Couple of Yarns from Schneider's Little Back Room in the Bear of the Grocery. Billings has been spending the past summer in the Southwest, but returned to Detroit to vote. On the evening of his arrival an informal reception was held in Schneider's little back room.

The guest of the occasion had been dilating at considerable length upon the dangers he had encountered and survived, and particularly his first and only attempt to ride a burro; an attempt that terminated in about thirty seconds and confined him to the house for a week. His conversation with the declaration that if he was going to California he would walk every step of the way in preference to trying to ride a burro there.

"Oh, snooks! It's easy 'nough to ride any long-eared horse that ever bucked, just you wait till you've mounted a birchbark canoe, Bill, and you'll walk when you want to go to Windsor." The assertion came from Bill Matson, who was slowly but surely groping his way towards the bottom of a bottle of beer.

"You're talking about something that you don't know nothing about, Bill." "No, I ain't, Bill. As the married school-man said when he reached home for his supper to find his own young'un, I've had 'speculations." "What are you talking about, then?" "You don't mean to tell me that any down-east Yankee like you ever navigated a birchbark canoe, do you, Bill?"

"I didn't say I had, Bill, but I did say that you were talking about it, then?" "But I tried it once, just as you tried to ride the donk; and I got off quicker'n you did."

"Tell us about it, Bill!" shouted the reception committee, and one of them motioned to Schneider that the Bill's schooner should make another voyage to the keg.

"When I was a boy, down in New York, there was a chap in our town that I couldn't throw in a wad of long hair and a couple of dollars and do up in any fashion. I brought that chap with me to Michigan, but he had a bad chill afore I'd been here a week and died inside of a month. The funeral occurred just about the time I tried to ride a burro." "It was up to the Sox. I'd been there two or three days a-watchin' 'em pesky Injuns come a-whop-in in their loads of fish, standin' up in their canoes and a-plurging away with a long pole and a paddle, and he was on 'em, and I jest thought with me I'd buy me a canoe and show the varmints how a white man's back looked when he was a-rowin'."

I paid a t'nal veskin fifteen dollars for his canoe, pulled off my coat, stepped in, picked up the paddle, and gave a sweep on one side jest kerzackly as the Injun did. You needn't never ask me how it happened, boys, for I don't know. I thought the darned thing would come over and sink, but when I come to the top and climbed up on the deck, there was that pesky canoe settin' right there on the water, lookin' right at me, as inexcusable as a sheep, and not a drop of water in it."

"Ugh!" grunted a big strapping Injun, "white man catch fish like other?" "And then the pesky rascals commenced a-laffin' as 'if 'twas funny. In the somewhat exciting incidents of the next few minutes I was quite busily engaged in my canoe, pulled off my coat, and a couple of us was purty near used up, and that canoe I'd brought all the way from York State was doadin' a mallet. I ain't been here as smart since as I was afore." —Detroit Free Press.

HUMOROUS.

—The man who diagnoses the bumps on men's heads.

—One of the experiences of life which is not given every one to enjoy is seeing a phrenologist hand in his net of guldrons. Bring a thing whose revelations are more apt to mutilate any one's vanity than to help him along in the world, phrenology is always sure of credulous devotees. It flourishes best on rural soil, though when well watered it grows fairly in metropolitan atmosphere.

—The Latest Styles in Mantles, Jackets and Skirts.

Short mantles of seal-skin are among the new garments this winter. Some of these are in the shape just noted for long garments, but are cut as short as a sash or a mantilla, falling usually longer in front than behind, where they merely cover the tournure. The short Greys and Galatas are graceful and warm-looking when trimmed with a milk border with pendant tails, or with black marten, or the handsome three-quarter plucked beaver bands. There are also many styles of sash-like, very youthful and dressy-looking, while others have pastermentic ornaments on them, and clasp of carved wood or stained ivory representing two antique heads; still others are edged with a fringe made of seal-skin tails tied in masses of silk cords.

Seal-skin jackets are shown in small sizes, smartly fitted as Jersey waists are, and are known as Jersey jackets. These are for quite young ladies, are worn without any trimmings, and are as low as \$75 or as much as \$250. The popular seal-sash, which is always useful for long drives, for the country, and for general wear, is now made less closely in shape by being fitted more snugly in the back and sides, the fronts remain loose and straight, and have a cord collar that may be turned up about the throat, or else turned down to form lapels. They measure from thirty-seven to forty-one inches across the bust, and when well fitted are very handsome either plain, or widely bordered, as many of them are, with black marten, natural beaver, or sable-tail trimmings. Hudson Bay sash borders with tails in rows, and the tails are not cut off, as is the case with the Hudson Bay sash. It is necessary to complete them as they are, effective on these occasions. In selecting seal garments the purchaser should make sure that in every part of the piece the fleece is made to turn upward, as it will then naturally drop downward, and disclose its rich depths, when brushing or stroking this fur, the movement should also be upward. The reader is also again warned against allowing him to be misled by the fact that seal-skin is to be distinguished by the fact that it is not so soft as the seal-skin, but by hanging out-of-doors, or else in a cold room. —Harper's Bazaar.

—Martin Farquhar Tupper, who derived fortune from the sale of 800,000 copies of his "Reverend's Philosophy" in America, is now suffering from poverty in London. If all those who have read the old poem would contribute a penny to his relief, he would be enabled to spend his last days in comfort. —Current.

COULD NOT SEE IT.

People in India often see the things that we cannot see.

Having gathered the local news around him, Dr. Bellow proceeds to catch them in a paternal fashion as to the sanitary condition of their villages. Learning from them that they are generally healthy except in the autumn, when the season changes, Dr. Bellow observes: "But you are generally free from sickness, I see, when the weather is dry?" "Yes," replies the spokesman of the landholders; "we have no sickness to speak of, except after the falls of rain, and worst of all when the season changes in the autumn, when the weather is wet. We thought of taking any measures for remedying this, the landholders gave the following characteristic reply: "How should we? We are God's creatures, and in His hands. God is omniscient, and His ways are unsearchable. He provides for and cares for us." Quite admitting the truth of these remarks, Dr. Bellow nevertheless inquires whether this was any reason for their neglecting to provide for their worldly welfare when it was needed by any natural causes produced by themselves, and capable of remedy by themselves. "God only knows," says the landholder. "The Sikars are very fond of us poor subjects, and you are all very kind to us. But we are not to be low down with them, and after pointing out minutely the faults of their dwellings and food, the landholder remarks: "Yes, this is plain enough, and reasonable. But, sir, we poor people get accustomed to this kind of rain, and we are not to be low down with them, and after pointing out minutely the faults of their dwellings and food, the landholder remarks: "Yes, this is plain enough