

Explorer Stanley says the slave trade in Africa cannot be suppressed unless the European Powers join together and break up the ivory trade.

The New York Telegram has discovered that "the United States stands alone among all the countries of the world as the only one that taxes art."

On a recent trial in Wales to test the validity of a will, it was proved that in 1869 the testator became impaired in intellect to such an extent that he went to the postoffice with a postage stamp on his forehead, and requested to be sent to a place he mentioned.

The Prairie Farmer believes that farmers are most interested in having the census figures of agriculture as near the truth as possible. Speculators and others make the most when they can keep farmers and others in the dark about the yield of crops.

Dr. Sayre, of New York, tells the Herald that the average life in the United States is three years more than in England, France or Germany, and five years more than it was sixty years ago.

Says the Washington Star: Kentucky is still progressing. A railroad is expected to reach Big Sandy Gap one of these days, and the Herald of that town announces that Peter Kidd will give \$500 for the privilege of putting a tent over the first locomotive and train of cars for twenty-four hours and charging the raw mountaineers twenty-five cents each to come in and see it.

In the good old Bible times the cutting off of Samson's hair brought great tribulation upon the dwellers in Gath and in the land of Askelon, but down in Kentucky it seems, states the Philadelphia Press, the bloody Howard-Turner feud originated in the burning off of the mazy locks of one of the mountaineers during a night of joviality.

The population of the United States in the year 1880 was 50,000,000 and about one-seventh. It is estimated that the population in 1890 will be nearly 64,500,000. The exact figures put down by the enumerators are 64,442,807.

"The utilization of convict labor in road making," observes the Boston Outlook, "may be the best possible solution of a difficulty that confronts the people of most States. The organized labor unions will not allow convicts to work at any trade where they could possibly compete with themselves. But repairing highways is an occupation that nobody has as yet preempted for his own exclusive employment."

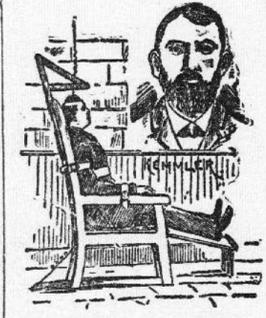
A Philadelphia letter says: "Nearly 200 people mysteriously disappeared from the city of Philadelphia during the year ending with the opening of the present month. This is a remarkable exhibit, and one which reminds the writer of an article which appeared in a French scientific journal two or three years ago, wherein the author advances the theory that death is occasionally actual dissolution. It is a disease, the writer referred to, maintained, but one from which there is no suffering; there is no illness or warning of approaching end; the patient suddenly ceases to exist and as suddenly fades from sight. He says he has actually witnessed this phenomenon and that he was at one time walking with a friend who suddenly vanished and has never reappeared. With such conclusive testimony he has little doubt that many persons searched for have actually melted into thin air. He further states that at the moment his friend disappeared, a strong sulphurous odor pervaded the atmosphere."

KILLING MEN.

HOW SEVERAL COUNTRIES GET RID OF THEIR CRIMINALS.

The Recent Adoption of the Electrical Death Chair in New York Suggests Modes of Execution Everywhere.

With the sentence of Joseph Kemmler, the convicted murderer, at Auburn Prison, a new era in capital punishment begins. It has been reserved for the humanitarians of America to lead the way in the abolition of the old and barbarous method of taking lives that have been forfeited to the law, and to substitute for strangulation by the rope the speedy, painless death by the electrical chair, in which the condemned may pass away without affording a spectacle.



THE ELECTRICAL DEATH CHAIR.

The "death chair" is constructed on the model of an invalid's reclining chair. The guillotine, with its two upright posts, its cooper, or ax, depending from a cross beam, and its lunette for steadying the head of the victim till the ax is released by a ratchet spring, is, next to the electric chair, the most expeditious of modern instruments, the swiftly descending steel severing the head instantly.

During the Reign of Terror, when Marat, Danton, Robespierre, and Fouquier-Thierville were filling Paris with blood, one guillotine has been known to destroy sixty-two victims in forty-five minutes. It is known under various names. Among the Germans it is the "Panké;" in Scotland, where it was used to decapitate the nobility before and during the Jacobite war, it was called "The Maiden," for its cold kiss was fatal.



DEATH BY SILKEN CORD IN CHINA.

There are nine crimes on the Chinese calendar calling for capital punishment, and as a consequence, executions are far from being infrequent. On the fatal day the condemned are feasted at the expense of the Governor of the district and given an abundant supply of wine. The Chinese have no fear of death. Drunk or sober, they are, like the fatalist Turk, ever ready to meet their fate. When the summons comes from the executioner, they march with him in a half drunken stupor. At the door of their cells they are disrobed and their hands and feet are bound with ropes, while they are gagged and lifted into bamboo baskets and trundled off like so much merchandise to the scene of execution.

The townspeople form a semi-circle at a proper distance from the criminals, the soldiers stand on guard, and the heads-men, with their long, double-edged weapons drawn, stand by for the signal. It is given, and the chief swordsman begins the butchery. Both his hands grasp the big sword, there is a flash through the



DEATH BY BOWSTRING IN TURKEY.

air and the next instant a head falls forward and a stream of blood spouts upward, until the body drops into the hole and out of sight. Such is the dexterity of the Chinese swordsmen that they rarely need more than one stroke in decapitation. One after another in the same way, and not till the arm of the headman's fires does he give place to an assistant, who steps forward and finishes the work. Throughout the whole scene the going becoms mournfully.

The ching chee, or death by the sword, is not granted to women in China. They are either strangled or hanged to pieces. The latter is the punishment inflicted for exceedingly severe cases, such as the murder of a husband, a father, mother or other near relative. The victim, after being fastened to a stake, is literally carved to pieces, her flesh being cut off in small fragments and the vital parts avoided so as to prolong her suffering. Dismemberment and finally decapitation end her agonies.

be to his interest to remove certain Princess he sends them a present of a silken cord, which is a polite invitation to self destruction. The invitation is rarely disobeyed. The unlucky victim of royal disfavor goes to his chamber, and, adjusting the cord, two of his attendants pull it until death ensues.

While executions in Turkey are commonly conducted by the sword—except in military circles, where the gun is used, as in England and this country—the bowstring is peculiarly Turkish, and although often talked and written about, comparatively few outside the Moslem dominions know anything at all about it. The executioners with the bowstring are generally mute. They work in pairs and are very expert.

Many of them are dwarfs, ugly, misshapen people, creatures who seem to have been formed by nature expressly for their hideous work. The condemned man or woman sits on a divan, with two mutes approach behind, bearing with them a stout bow.

One of them bends the bow almost double with his strong, sinewy arms, while the other, with a ferocious motion of the wrist, casts the loop of the bowstring around the victim's neck, which has been considerably bared for the occasion. It settles across the larynx, the box is taken considerably bare for the occasion. It settles across the larynx, the box is taken considerably bare for the occasion.

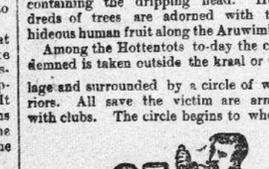
The bowstring finds a fitting companion, as far as refined Oriental cruelty is concerned, in death by strangulation and the sack, which is yet practiced in some parts of Turkey, Persia and Syria, and which was a common method of punishment in ancient Greece and Rome. The victim, half or wholly dead, is sewed up in a sack, weighted and cast into the river.



THE ELEPHANT DEATH IN SIAM.

The punishment of condemned criminals. The Bangkok, on the Aruwimi River, in Africa, has a peculiarly cruel mode of ridding themselves of such people. The culprit is taken from the rude native prison, and his head is covered with a basket which is fastened around his neck, but not so as to impede breathing. He is conducted to a grove where the executioners have already been at work. The limb of a young tree has been bent low to the ground, and is held there either by the united efforts of a number of men or by ropes tied to larger trees. A rope is fastened to the basket about the prisoner's head and also to the end of the bended limb. He is then ordered to stand with body erect and neck slightly bent. In this attitude the blow is given with a sword in the hands of the native headman, and at the same instant the ropes that confine the limb of the tree are severed and it springs back to its original position, bearing on its point the basket containing the dripping head. Hundreds of trees are adorned with this hideous human fruit along the Aruwimi.

Among the Hottentots to-day the condemned is taken outside the kraal or village and surrounded by a circle of warriors. All save the victim are armed with clubs. The circle begins to wheel, and the garrotte as used in Spain.



GARROTTE AS USED IN SPAIN.

the warriors singing as they go. Nearer and nearer they come until they are almost within arms' length of the victim. Then they raise their clubs, and, no longer trotting but running at full speed, strike him as they run, each blow being accompanied by a savage shout; it needs but a few minutes to beat the wretch to the ground; but they do not leave him until the life has departed and the body is a mere shapeless mass.

In Spain and its colonies the garrotte is the instrument of capital punishment. The condemned man sits on a seat resembling a cobbler's stool, with his back against an upright post. His feet are strapped to the legs of the stool. The upright is pierced by two holes, at a point just above the man's shoulder, each of which a steel bar is inserted. These, with a cross piece in front, form the collar. In the upright, back of the neck, is a bar of metal, which is operated by screws and worked by a lever. The head of the condemned man is enveloped in a cloth, his arms are tightly strapped, and at a signal the lever is turned and the bar is driven home through the nervous fibres and ganglia connected with the spinal cord. The neck is broken, and, with a few revolutions of the lever, the man is dead.

The following table shows the standing of the different countries of the globe today on the capital punishment question: Australia.....The gallows

Belgium.....The guillotine
China.....The sword and cord
Denmark.....The guillotine
France.....The guillotine
Holland.....The guillotine
Holland.....The gallows
Morocco.....The gallows
Portugal.....The sword and guillotine
Spain.....The garrotte
Prussia.....The sword
Russia.....Musket, sword and bowstring
Switzerland.....The sword
Japan.....Elephant, fire and sword
Siam.....Gun and gallows
India.....The sword
Java.....The sword

An Odd Signalman.

The baboon which figures in the illustration is a well-known character in the Cape Colony, but more particularly in the neighborhood of Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The history attaching to him is a curious and probably unique story. The signalman, his owner, was through no fault of his own, run over by a passing train, and had to have both legs amputated, which would naturally incapacitate him from work, but the idea struck him to secure a baboon and train him to do his work. This he has successfully accomplished, and for many years the one in question has regularly looked after his afflicted master. The hard work of the signalman, however, is not possessed of extraordinary intelligence, and has never made a mistake. Of course, the human servant works the telegraphs, and the baboon the levers, according to instructions; and, taking into consideration the fact that at the station in question, Uitenhage Junction,



THE BABOON AS SIGNALMAN.

and about twenty miles from Port Elizabeth, there is a large volume of traffic, the gravity of the creature is really wonderful. At first passengers raised a strong protest against the employment of the animal, on the score of risk of accident, but the baboon has never yet failed during his many years of work, and on more than one occasion has acted in a manner simply astounding to those who never had personal experience of the intelligence of these brutes. One of his most noteworthy performances was the correct switching of an unannounced special train on its correct line in the absence of the signalman. The latter lives about a mile up the line, and the baboon pushes him out and home, morning and night, and is the sole companion of his legless master. Our picture is from a photograph by C. W. Smart of Port Elizabeth, and although depicting the baboon in a somewhat theatrical attitude, is from life, and gives a capital likeness of both man and monkey.—Illustrated Dramatic News.

An Extensive Acquaintance.



THE GAMELLE.

There is a kind of tin mug called the gamelle, in which the French soldier receives his rations, and which he carries on his knapsack. The form is a little peculiar, so as to distinguish it from other ordinary tin mugs. A simple implement, which, carried on the backs of French soldiers, has marched so often to victory, and of late to defeat, has at last received its reward in its glorification. When the young Duke of Orleans came before the court, and exclaimed: "I ask for nothing but a gamelle," meaning nothing but the treatment of a common soldier, the public readily seized upon the emblem. Scarcely three days had elapsed before a great jeweler of the Rue de la Paix had hundreds of "tin mugs" in silver, gold and jewels, as pins and badges, which sold immediately as the "tin mug" of Orleans, and were worn all over Paris. A popular artist designed a vase in the shape of the "tin mug," and presented the first specimen to the Prince, who sent it to his bride, Margaret de Chartres, filled with roses and lilies of the valley. A restaurateur originated a gamelle as a soup dish, and sent it to the noble prisoner full of bouillon. But this was not permitted within the prison. In the meanwhile, all Paris is sporting the soldier's tin mug in the tricolor, and the young Duke has left a fashionable ornament to remember him by.—The Ledger.

Flower Markets.

Cincinnati is to erect a market to be devoted exclusively to the sale of flowers similar to those in operation in many of the European cities. The bulk of the fund to be used was left by will by the late Mrs. Mary E. Halroyd, a lady of that city, as a memorial to her first husband, Mr. Julius Elliott. It would be a good idea for New Orleans to construct a small market at some central point for the sale of flowers. There is no city in the world perhaps where there are more flowers grown than in New Orleans, and yet it is often difficult to procure them here at prices within the reach of the average purse.—Times-Democrat.

It is no exaggeration to say, says the Chicago Herald, that forty per cent. of the cases of insanity are preventable.

The first record of engraving on any thing is in Exodus xxvii, 9, where stone engraving is mentioned.

SIAM'S FLOATING CAPITAL.

PICTURESQUE BANGKOK, THE VENICE OF THE ORIENT.

A Populous and Magnificent City Built Upon Piling, Above the Water—Floating Houses.

A floating city of half a million souls, with an environment of Oriental splendor, and the temples of Buddha and the palaces and gardens of the King must be a place picturesque beyond description; but it is the capital of a country where the brutal system of slavery for debt continues to curse the poor, and where the women are drudges for the men. Who are themselves the property of the King.

"Siam is the Holland of the Orient. During a part of the year the best of its lands lie under water and the people move from one village to another in boats. The rivers and canals are the highways of the kingdom, and the city of Bangkok, the royal capital, has more houses built upon piles than have the pilted cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam, and its canal streets surpass in number the liquid avenues through which the Venetian gondola glides. Bangkok is even more the daughter of the waters than is the famed queen city of the Adriatic. Venice rises from the sea, and its foundations reach down into its sand. Bangkok floats upon the bosom of the mighty Menam River, and its hundred thousand dwellings rise and fall with the tide. The Menam is called the mother of waters and Bangkok, its most beautiful daughter, is soothed during the day and lulled to sleep at night upon the bosom of this mighty mother.

"Bangkok has few things in common with its sister city of Italy, and it differs from Venice as the savage maiden of the tropics laden with barbaric gold differs from the fashionable girl of our modern civilization, clad in her latest Parisian dress. Imagine a low, flat country flooded with the most luxuriant of tropical vegetation. The wild signs through the palm trees. Birds of the gayest plumage fill the air with their tropical songs. In the jungle is heard the chattering of the monkey, and along the flat streams bask the alligator. A low, clear blue sky, in which the sun of the tropics shines its hottest, hazy over it, and at night the moon and stars shine with an untold brightness. Sailing up this river, from the Gulf of Siam, at about thirty miles from its mouth, you note in the distance, the spires of temples and palaces. As you go on from out the palm trees on each side shine little one-story houses, their roofs thatched with p m leaves, and their foundations apparently rising from the water itself. None of these houses are large. The average house is not more than fifty feet square, and the roofs sharp ridged and bellying inward, are not more than twelve feet from the floor. They have neither windows nor doors, and their fronts open in verandas directly on the water. Coming nearer you see that they float, and that their foundation is a raft of bamboo poles, each about three inches thick, and piled crosswise, one on top of the other, like the corn cob house of a country urchin.

"There are no cellars in Bangkok, and each house has a hole in the floor through which the sweepings are thrown. At two or more corners of each of these dwellings a pole has been driven down into the mud, and the house is anchored to these. Its owner pays a ground rent to the person owning the land on the banks in front of which the house rests. But in case of dispute the moorings are cut, and the house, family and all float away to another location. There are fifteen miles of these floating houses. They line both banks of the river and the canals back into the jungle. It is not uncommon for the owner of a floating dwelling to anchor his house in the middle of one of the narrowest of the water avenues, and boats passing by must get through as they can. The native houses of the land are built high up on piles, so that one could almost walk under their floors. Some of them have picturesquely pointed roofs, but like the floating houses, they are as a rule small, and their interior arrangements are the same.

"It is estimated that five hundred thousand out of the seven hundred thousand people of Bangkok live thus upon the water. There are thousands of children here who have never had a playground bigger than the fifteen-foot veranda in front of their homes, and whole families live through generations in one of these three-roomed floating houses without having spent a night upon the land. The people go from one place to another in boats, and the streets and highways of this floating city are filled with all sorts of craft, from the ocean steamer, which carries passengers and freight to Hong Kong and Singapore, to the little canoe, ten feet long and two feet wide, which is used by a Siamese urchin. There is a perant peddler, with his goods piled on the boat in front of him, paddling his way from house to house and crying out his wares. Here are women by the hundreds standing up and rowing or sitting down sculling boat loads of merchandise from one part of the city to the other, and through them all move the steam launches of the Siamese noblemen, and now and then the great barge of the King, with its white elephant flag floating in the breeze."

The Siamese King, says Mr. Carpenter, is immensely wealthy, owning a private fortune of fifty millions, with an annual income of ten millions! He has abolished the custom which required the Siamese to come into the King's presence on all fours, and shakes hands with Americans in the American fashion. Before traveling abroad he was instructed by an English governor, and has used his immense fortune to develop the country, bringing telegraphs to the capital, and putting out surveys for railroads. Notwithstanding this he remains in the Buddhist faith, and there are 10,000 priests of Buddha in Bangkok.—Atlanta Constitution.

Here's Wetness for You.

The Pacific Ocean is the largest body of water on the globe. It has 71,000,000 square miles of area. The Atlantic has an area of 38,000,000 square miles. The Indian Ocean is third, with 28,000,000 square miles. The Antarctic measures 8,500,000 and the Arctic 4,500,000 square miles.

Two citizens of Charlestown, Mass., propose to start for Russia, shortly, to publish a newspaper in behalf of Siberian slaves.

WEEK ME NOT WITH BROODING ON THE YEARS.

I vex me not with brooding on the years That were ere I drew breath: why should I then Disturb the darkness that may fall again When life is done? Perchance in other spheres— Dead planets—I once tasted mortal tears, And walked as now among a throng of men. Tender things that lay beyond my ken, Questioning death, and solacing my fears, Who knows? Ofttimes strange sense have I of this. Vague memories that hold me with a spell, Touches of unseen lips upon my brow, Breathing some incomprehensible bliss! In years foregone, O soul, was all not well! Still lovelier life awaits thee. Fear not thou! —Thomas B. Aldrich, in The Century.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

Always on hand—Palmyristy. A pound of flesh—Pugilism. The plane dealer—The carpenter. The end of women's prayer—Men. Open to conviction—The prisoner at the bar.—Judge. The burglar's method for getting into a safe is an open secret. A title often sells a book as easily as it buys an heir.—Puck. Now comes to mar mora's slumber sweet The frolicsome fly with luzzing feet. —Washington Post.

It is the man who is losing ground by inches who becomes dissatisfied with his lot. Astronomers predict numerous sun spots this year—among the freckled.—Hotel World. The work of the sewing woman is in some respects a gory business.—Binghamton Republican. "There was not a dissenting vote." "Yes, I heard it was carried anonymously."—Harper's Bazar.

Inquisitive Patient—"What is the scientific name for spring fever?" Doctor—"Laziness."—Chicago Times. A Western humorist writes in his shirt sleeves. Well, that's all right. That's where his "funny bone" is located.—Statesman. The idiom, "His name is mud," was first applied to Henry Clay when he got into the soup for the Presidency.—Harvard Lampoon.

It is best always to choose a tall man for State Treasurer, so that he may not be found short when he goes out of office.—Pittsburg. "I seem very popular with your father's dog," said Herbert to Mabel. "Indeed?" "Yes, the last time I tried to take my leave, he did his best to detain me."

Nurse (showing new baby to proud father)—"How like his pa, Herr Baron! Your very image!" Baron—"You think so?" Nurse—"No hair, no teeth—just the picture of you."—German Joke. Artist—"Oh! so you think the background's 'heavily,' do you? Perhaps the cattle are 'heavily,' too, though I flatter myself." Friendly Critic—"Oh, no, my dear fellow; that's just what they are not."—The Jester.

Woman (to tramp)—"Want something to eat, eh? Well, here's some cold hash." Tramp—"But I haven't got anything to eat with it." Woman—"Just keep on a little further and you'll find a fork in the road." Small Boy—"Papa, which way does the Chicago River run?" Papa (who is always glad to slake the youthful thirst for knowledge)—"It doesn't run at all, my child. It is so thick it can hardly walk."—Washington Star.

"Your son is traveling at a pretty rapid pace," said one Senator to another. "Yes; I'm afraid he's going 'most too lively.'" "Does he play poker?" "No, he doesn't play. He just sits down and loses his money."—Washington Post. "What is it, little girl?" said a Dearborn street grocer to a five-year-old miss, as he leaned over the counter. Little Girl—"Mamma sent me for a lamp-chimney, and she says she hopes it will be as strong as that last butter you sent us."—Chicago Lyre.

"This dust nuisance must damage you a great deal," he said to the grocer, as he dodged into the door to let a great cloud roll by. "Oh, no, sir. Anything added to maple sugar, prunes, evaporated apples, etc., is paid for by the public at so much per pound. I am not doing any kicking."—Detroit Free Press.

Scientific farming in Italy is to be undertaken this year by a company owning a capital of \$20,000,000. If the operations prove successful, the old wooden plow, pulled by oxen, that has held the field since an era before the Roman Caesars, will probably have to go.

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