

A reunion of the blue and the gray at the World's Fair is proposed.

The Japanese Naval Minister urges that seventy-five vessels be added to his country's armament, almost doubling its strength.

Jay Gould is quoted as saying that an advance of one mill per ton per mile in the rates would increase the net earnings of the Missouri Pacific Railroad over \$2,000,000 per annum.

Delaware is said to have more living ex-Governors than any other State in the Union. Five of them—B. T. Biggs, John P. Cochran, James Fonder, John W. Hall and Charles F. Stokley—are still engaged in active business.

The New York Herald estimates that "the tea crop this year will be short of the usual product by about 27,000,000 pounds. And in consequence of a little matter of 27,000,000 pounds shortage, the importers propose to run up the price ten cents a pound."

The expenses of the municipal electric lighting plants in Paris, France, last year were \$69,957, while the receipts were \$89,152. The balance on the right side of the ledger would seem an argument, thinks the Boston Transcript, in favor of municipal control of city lighting.

In a speech to a delegation from the Workingmen's Council of Industry, King Leopold, of Belgium, said that he had decided to pledge his support to the demand for universal suffrage, but not being a dictator he must leave the question to the nation to decide.

"There is no annexation sentiment in this country," protests the New York Tribune. "On the contrary, if the question came up in any practical form, there would be a powerful opposition to it. And if Canada begged to be annexed, it is possible that her request would be declined with thanks. Even the million Canadians now in this country are not agitating the question of annexation. Having annexed themselves, they are not at all anxious to let others in."

Senator Higgins, of Delaware, says that the whipping-post and the pillory are still retained in his State, owing to the fact that the State lies in the neighborhood of three great cities, and that it has to adopt unusual means to protect itself from becoming the asylum of criminals from these great centres. He is himself opposed to the preservation of these forms of punishment, states the New York Tribune, although he concedes that their preservation has a tendency to make criminals give the State a wide berth. The whipping of to-day, adds the Tribune, is merely nominal and in no way resembles the brutal punishment of the past when the cat-o'-nine-tails as a form of punishment was first established.

Manistee, an obscure town in the interior of Michigan, is the terminus of a railroad that is operated in an unique manner. The road is known as the Manistee & Northern, and is fifty-three miles in length. It does a profitable passenger business, and has neither stocks, bonds nor mortgages. It pays its bills in full on the 25th of each month. There is not one dollar of indebtedness on it, and never has been. The road was originally built to carry lumber out of the woods, but as it was extended in mileage, passenger traffic was established. It is owned by Edward Buckley and William Douglas. Between them all the offices except general passenger and freight agent are divided.

Welshmen are looking forward with peculiar interest, notes the New York Observer, to the census of 1891, because, for the first time, a clause has been inserted directing an enumeration of all persons who speak Welsh and English in Wales and Monmouthshire, and of all Welsh-speaking persons in England as well. It is generally maintained that there are more Welsh-speaking people in existence at the present moment than there were ever before. That there are more periodicals, newspapers, pamphlets and books published in the Welsh language, and, therefore, more Welsh readers now than at any period heretofore is very certain, and admitted on all hands. The other assertion is neither so improbable as it might appear at first sight, when we consider the number of Welshmen settled in the principal English towns, in America, and in the colonies and various other parts of the world. It is computed that of the 1,600,000 inhabitants of Wales 1,000,000 speak Welsh; that there are at least 80,000 Welsh-speaking natives of the principality in London alone, where there are twenty-eight Welsh chapels, and more than 180,000 in Liverpool, which has seventy-four Welsh chapels, Manchester (with twenty-nine Welsh chapels), and other large centres of population, besides the great numbers who have crossed the Atlantic and are thickly scattered all over the mining districts, and forming a few agricultural settlements in the New World.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN.

Montana has a woman lawyer. Cleopatra crepe is a new fabric. Hats are mostly of medium size. Coat basques are becoming smart. Plum purple is becoming to most faces. Shell hairpins again usurp those of metal. Black silk handkerchiefs are considered vulgar. Paris, France, employs 195,000 dress-makers. The latest toilet invention is a waterproof rouge. Bedford cords, lace and ribbon stripes appear in grenadines. All wool surah cloth in all the latest colors is new and pretty and cheap. Serviceable jackets for ladies are made of black and colored fancy woolsens. The Chicago (Ill.) Presbytery has pronounced against training women as deaconesses. The Empress of Austria, who suffers much from rheumatism, has a lady doctor in attendance. Stripes will reduce the width of a fat woman, and even Sarah Bernhardt would be fat in a plaid dress. There is a dressmaking establishment in London, England, where ladies' own materials are made up. According to statistical reports 130,000 married women are engaged in business pursuits in Germany. Women who long ago discarded the hanging, dangling, clashing things in silver still cling to the crystal chateleine watch. The prayer book fad for brides has had its day. Miss Ava Willing, now Mrs. John Jacob Astor, reinstated the bouquet. "Old man Worth," as the modistes call him, is said to be the worst tempered man in the world, since Carlyle. His growl is simply terrifying. One of the gifts at the Shepard-Schieffelin wedding in New York City was a solid silver tray, thirty inches in diameter, and valued at \$1800. Bridesmaids have always suffered, no matter how charming they may be, because they naturally precede the bride and are lost in the halo of her interesting brilliancy. Feathers are supposed to make a woman look younger. Hence the popularity of the ostrich, which from the rostrum of the millinery shop is the king of all birds. Dressy evening toilets are made of rose, mauve or blue matelasse satins splintered with gold. These are combined with lace, gauze or embroidered silk muslin. No less than 17,000 young girls and women homeless, friendless, helpless and foodless sleep in the open-all-night shelters of Stepney Green, London, England, in a year. Lady Wilde, mother of Oscar Wilde, is remarkable for her beauty, brilliancy of conversation and accomplishments. She has cordial manners, excellent sense and a great social following. The youngest school marm in the world is Clara Greenwald, of Bernville, Penn. She has forty public school scholars, began work five months ago and is only thirteen years of age. "Jenny Lind" trimmings, formed of lace and roses or other blossoms placed on the sides instead of the top of the bonnet, are seen upon a few exclusive models sent by a noted French milliner. The Swiss girl is busily embroidering covers for the down cushion to be sent to the pulpit dandy or missionary dude of the parish. The down alone costs \$20 a pound used in these ecclesiastical pillows. Notwithstanding the alleged helplessness of women Germany has 5,500,000 working women, England 4,000,000, France 3,750,000, Austria 3,000,000, and America 2,700,000, including all occupations. Only simple walking costumes are made entirely of one plain fabric, or of woolen alone, but most daylight gowns, even those of the richest description, frequently have fine woolsens intermixed with silk, or striped, or plaided material. The Marie Antoinette fichu of lace, net, or silk muslin is very popular with debutantes and all other rosebud girls. It is worn over pretty little French house dresses of Chinese silk or cashmere, and is made to lap on the bust and knot at the back. The Princess of Wales has displayed a penchant for brown, which is likely to make the color fashionable. This is fortunate, as it is a most becoming color to most women, and can be charmingly blended with gold, soft pink shades and palest blue. The fabric of all fabrics for the moment is cloth, the very light and white cloth for evening and reception wear, with gold braiding, jeweled galloons or silk cord appliques adjusted very much as the passementeries are upon day gowns of deeper shade. The tailor-made dresses are so stiffened and made firm with canvas and bones padding that but little reference is made to the actual form of the wearer. Indeed, these gowns are as perfect in outline as are the garments of men with their always superb shoulders. Mrs. Anna C. Fall, of Boston, Mass., is the third lady of that city to be admitted to the bar. Mrs. Fall has a husband, with whom she studied, but owing to the laws of the State, which forbid legal contracts between husband and wife, there will be no partnership. The Dolly Varden style of decoration seems this time to have had a permanent revival, for never before has there such riot of buds and blossoms, and trailing vines on every variety of material except, perhaps, the hoarhemp, chevrons and other varieties of medium weight woolen goods. One of the directors of the First National Bank, of Auburn, N. Y., is Miss Emily Howard, who is the only woman in the world, certainly in America, to fill a position of the kind. Miss Howard, before and since the war, has taken an active interest in the education of the colored people. The fancy for black satins and Bengaline silks figured with scattered flower sprays or tiny set designs continues. The new silks are strewn with heather sprays, single corn flowers, rosebuds and small blossoms, or with rice, lozenge or other set designs.

THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES THAT ARE TOLD BY THE FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

A Tale of the Sea—And Lashings of It—A Comprehensive Term—Enforced Abstinence, Etc., Etc. The captain was fat and obese. He was ponderous, heavy and stout, colossal and bristling-gauged. A corpulent, chubby-faced lout. The sailor was dumpy and squat, a petty, pigmy-like dwarf, a stunted two-decimo tot, a tiny, wee, puny sawed-off.

The sailor declined to obey. The captain's emphatic hints: The captain sat on him that day. The sailor has not appeared since. —New York Sun.

A COMPREHENSIVE TERM. Small Boy—"What is an egotist?" Big Man—"One who talks about himself while you are aching to talk about yourself." —Puck.

AND LASHINGS OF IT. "I should think poor Peck would be mad to find himself tied for life to such a virago." "Yes, he's lashed to a perfect fury."

ENFORCED ABSTINENCE. "Do you play the banjo?" "Not when there are any people around." "Why not?" "They won't let me."

APPEALED TO HIS SELFISHNESS. Mrs. Cobwigger—"However did you induce your husband to get that nice electric motor to run your machine?" Mrs. Younghusband—"I told him it would rock the cradle as well." —Epoch.

ECONOMY IN HIGH LIFE. Mrs. Forandred—"We must retrench on our expenses this year, my dear." Mr. Forandred—"Very well; I'll be by telling my friends that my \$500 Russian poodle only cost \$250." —Epoch.

THE WORK OF TIME'S SICKLE. "Ugh!" said the Indian, in disgust. "What's the matter, Swallow-tail?" asked the agent. "Big Injun chase white man four mile. Want scalp. Catch white man. Ugh! white man bald." —Basar.

ONE OR THE OTHER. Cleverton—"Not long ago I made an agreement with a friend to exercise an hour a day for a year at the gymnasium. I'll be hanged if it wasn't destroyed by fire last night!" Dasher—"Ah-ha! Which one of you burned it?" —Judge.

A MODERN IMPROVEMENT. "How's this, Dauber? You've painted Father Time with a moving machine instead of a scythe?" "That's all right. We artists of the modern school keep up with inventive progress." —Munsey's Weekly.

QUESTIONABLE POLISH. Warden—"One prisoner we received to-day is said by the inspector to be an old offender; yet he seems to be a polished gentleman." Turnkey—"I know him well; he has been ironed enough times to account for his polish."

THEIR GODFATHERS TO BLAME. "There is one thing I don't like about the attaches of the Russian legation—something I don't think is consistent with good breeding." "What is that?" "They are forever calling one another hard names." —Kate Field's Washington.

WHAT HUNGER CAN DO. Mrs. Knickerbocker—"There was a policeman in the kitchen, courting our ugly old cook." Mr. Knickerbocker—"What! Why, she is sixty years old, and as ugly as a crazy quilt. Well, that policeman must have been hungry for a fact." —Texas Siftings.

NOMENCLATURE ONLY AT FAULT. Husband (just married)—"You want to know what I like best? Of all things I like live dumplings, sauer-kraut and blood pudding." Wife—"For shame, Adolph! So prosaic and common." "Can I help it if such divine-tasting things have prosaic names?" —Pittsburg Blotter.

A PURELY BUSINESS MOTIVE. Mr. Lozier Hope—"May I—may I—speak to your father, Miss Cole?" Miss Vera Cole—"It is useless, Mr. Hope—I can never be your wife." Mr. Lozier Hope—"Excuse me, I wish to speak to him about that fifteen dollars he borrowed of me week before last. I'm getting a little nervous about it." —Puck.

THE SARCASTIC CONDUCTOR. "I'll have to ask fare for him, ma'am," said the conductor as he went through the railway train. "That little fellow?" "Yes'm." "Why, he is in his childhood, sir." "Is he?" inquired the conductor, thoughtfully. "First or second, ma'am?" —Washington Post.

KNEW HIS CAPACITY. Heeks—"Sorry haven't any time to hear you to-day. I'm in an awful hurry." Wickes—"Oh, I am not going to keep you long. I only want to tell you what I think." Heeks—"Tell me what you think? Oh, if that's all, go ahead. I've time enough for that." —Boston Transcript.

HOME DECORATION. Mrs. Fatpurse—"You paint pictures to order, don't you?" Great Artist—"Yes, madam." Mrs. Fatpurse—"Well, I want a landscape, with lots of deer, and ducks, and quail, and red birds, and cattle, and sheep, and pigs, and so on, you know; and put a lake and an ocean in—fresh and salt water, you know; and be sure to have plenty of fish swimming around, because it's for the dining room." —New York Weekly.

DID THE DOCTOR EARN HIS FEE. Defendant—"Now, doctor, by virtue of your oath, didn't I say: 'Kill or cure, doctor, I'll give you a guinea?'"

THE HISTORY OF BEARDS.

CHANGES AND FASHIONS IN THE HIRSUITE APPENDAGE.

Sometimes Regarded as a Mark of Servitude, and at Other Times as a Badge of Liberty. Beards have had a most eventful history. At one time they were considered a distinctive badge of old age and wisdom, none but those of advanced age and philosophers being permitted to wear them. Afterward they came to be looked upon as one of the requisites of manly beauty. Then both old and young vied with each other in cultivating luxuriant specimens. The inhabitants of what is now called Germany wore long beards, as did also the Lombards, or Largobards, of Italy, from which circumstance they took their name. Otho's beard was famed for its length, and his most solemn oaths were taken upon it.

Scipio Africanus, one of the most famous of the warriors of ancient Rome, who seemed to care little for the fads of fashion, ventured the bold experiment of shaving off his beard. His example was immediately followed by all his countrymen. Slaves and servants alone were commanded, under pain of severe punishment, to wear beards, and thus the adornment descended from the high rank of being a badge of honor and became the distinctive feature of the lowest menials. It was not until the accession of Hadrian that it was restored to its original post of honor, and the slave again became known by its absence from their faces. This Emperor's reason for resurrecting the old fashion was that in order to cover up some very disfiguring scars on his chin it was absolutely necessary for him to cultivate the growth of a beard.

Prior to the time of Alexander the Great, the Greeks wore full beards, but that monarch required his soldiers to shave so that their enemies could not grasp them by that appendage during battle, a very ordinary proceeding in those days in a hand-to-hand conflict. In the early days of France a beard was considered a badge of liberty, and great care was bestowed upon it, the possessor of a long curly beard being looked upon with envy by his less-favored brethren. The pious monks and friars regarded this as a mark of frivolity and shaved off their beards. The bishop of Rouven, espousing their cause, hurried into France from the pulpit at the custom of wearing them. He so impressed hundreds of the religious-minded that they immediately followed the priestly example. Many, however, failed to do so, and, as a consequence, there existed in numerous localities two fashions—the smooth-faced and the bearded—and many bloody meetings occurred between them. In fact, these conflicts became so general and sanguinary that Louis VII., in order to bring about peace, removed his beard, and thus for a time settled the vexed question, "To shave or not to shave."

This marked another period in the downfall of the beard, and it quickly came into disrepute. Persons elected to the office of magistrate, or who desired to become members of Parliament, were not allowed to assume their positions unless their chins were clean shaven. Thus it was that many a beard, but a short time before the pride of its wearer, fell before the ruthless edict of fashion. It is an exception was made and they were allowed to retain this facial ornament.

It was not until 160 years later that it again became fashionable, and for the self-same reason as that which caused its restoration in the days of Hadrian. Francis I. received a disfiguring cut on his chin which precluded shaving, and to conceal the scar he was compelled to allow his hair to grow.

Louis XIII. became King at the age of nine, and, as a matter of course, was beardless. His witty courtiers, desiring to show their allegiance and respect, immediately scraped their chins and again the beard was relegated to obscurity. They did not, however, sacrifice all of this hirsute adornment, but grew moustaches and a small tuft of hair under the lower lip. This was also done when Philip V. ascended the Spanish throne. The early history of the rite and fall of the beard in England is somewhat similar to that already detailed, and during the reign of Queen Elizabeth long

beards were interdicted by statute. Those who had the temerity to wear one of "above a fortnight's growth" were fined and lost many of their privileges. This state of affairs lasted one year; then fashion proved triumphant, and the odious law was repealed.

Peter the Great endeavored himself very unpopular by levying a tax on beards, requiring any nobleman, gentleman, tradesman or artisan wearing one to pay 100 roubles for the luxury. If any member of the lower classes affected one he was taxed one copeck and compelled to pay it to a regularly appointed collector. Upon refusal or delinquency the beard was summarily removed by a public barber, who often performed the operation with a dull razor in the public street, surrounded by a throng of indignant friends of the victim. Many of those who could not afford to pay for the maintenance of such an expensive appendage, reluctantly parted with it, and in numerous instances preserved the severed beard with the greatest care, directing that it should be placed in their coffins at the time of their decease. This custom was also observed by the Jews of the olden time.

Among the Turks, Persians, Arabs and Mohammedans the removal of the beard always was and is still looked upon as a mark of degradation. In ancient Egypt the men were smooth-faced except in time of mourning, when they allowed their beards to grow, as a distinctive sign of grief.

The orthodox Jews of the present day still cling to the mourning customs of their forefathers, and for thirty days neither trim nor cut their beards. In America, no edict has ever been issued either for or against beards, it being left to the individual taste whether or not to cultivate this adornment. The great majority of men who became prominently identified with the early history of America were smooth-shaven, but at present time the fashion among our statesmen and other noted personages is to cultivate, if possible, luxuriant moustaches or beards. —Detroit Free Press.

The Otahoiteans, although great lovers of society and very gentle in their manners, feed separately from each other, each particular member of the family taking his or her basket and turning with back to all others in the room.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

China's one railroad has American engines.

Platinum has advanced to about \$20 per ounce. It is now proposed to introduce electric power in gold, silver and copper mining. It is said that by a new discovery the telephone can be made of use in foretelling storms. A speed of twenty-four miles an hour is attained on the electrical underground railway of London, England. There are about 1600 electric meters in use in London, England, and one-third of them are of American pattern. Luke Maggioro, in Switzerland, has water of different colors. In its northern branch the color is green, and in the southern a deep blue. The brownish discoloration of ceilings where gas is used is caused by dust, carried against them by the heated air currents produced by the gas. An English company is working a silver mine in Bolivia which yields more than 300 ounces to the ton, while specimens of almost pure silver are met with. An enterprising Iowa farmer who operates a big farm has called in the telephone as a means of direct communication with the various departments thereof. Any kind of cotton covering, when soaked in a solution of tungstate of soda, is rendered absolutely incombustible. It is therefore useful in central station work. One of the most exasperating accidents that happen in connection with the trolley system of propelling electric cars, is the killing of horses by the breaking of the trolley wire. The galvanized telephone wires in London, England, weighing 224 pounds to the mile, have been replaced with silicon bronze wires weighing thirty-six pounds to the mile. On shipboard pumping, ventilating, lifting or hoisting, may all be performed by the use of electric motors. On the latest French warships all big guns are manipulated electrically. Electric motors are now made which will work with their armatures in the water. The first applications of traction by electricity having a really practical character were made in Europe at the Berlin (Germany) Exhibition in 1879. An electric tramway was there exhibited constructed by the firm of Siemens & Halke, the action of which left nothing to be desired. News comes from New Castle, Penn., that Joseph Martin, a glassblower, is engaged in a series of experiments to develop a formula by which glass may be hardened so as to endure great shock. He has devised a method by which a bit of glass was treated and made so hard that a strong blacksmith could not break it on an anvil. An electrician who has made a specialty of spectacular electricity says the day is not so far off when electrical fireworks will supersede those now used. He declares that for a comparatively moderate outlay he could arrange an electrical display that would last for many years, and could be repeated as often as desired. It would comprise rockets, Roman candles, wheels, Niagara Falls and all the modern pyrotechnical effects.

RAINY SEASONS.

In southern Europe winter gales come generally in the form of rain-storms, and the ancient Romans called ever-dripping Ireland "Hibernia"—the land of perpetual winter. But the experience that rain in winter is the only alternative of snow expresses a rule with notable exceptions. It holds good in many parts of tropical Australia and all over the State of California, but in southern Mexico, eastern South America, and the southeastern extremity of our own territory the heaviest rains come from June to October, and winter is, in fact, the driest season of the year. In southern Florida, for instance, the average rainfall in November is only two inches, in January three; while in July the aggregate often exceeds twelve and fourteen inches. In Punta Gorda three successive weeks of perfectly dry days is nothing unusual at Christmas. —Belford.

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