

COTTONS' PAST ROMANCE.

PICTURESQUE FEATURES OF THE OLD-TIME PLANTATION.

The Slow-Working Ginn of Before the War—The Camberome Cotton Press Built by Yankee Mechanics—Taking the Ginn to Market—Present Methods...

Both the gin house and the screw press were located at a distance from the farm house so as to lessen the danger of fire because of the facility with which the light material would ignite from a spark.

On the old Habra plantation, about the beginning of the war, the proprietor decided to build a new gin house and press to accommodate the rapidly increasing business.

The labor and expense of erecting the machinery was such that the proprietor decided to frequently look together and build the gin house as some central point easy of access to all.

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With the many innovations and the scientific appliances that have been used the business of cotton growing, all the romantic charm of the old times has passed away.

SENATE WEATHER SHARPS.

A SPECIAL BUREAU MAINTAINED AT THE CAPITOL.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The United States Senate has one of the most complete weather stations in the country.

This station is one of the popular resorts on the Senate side of the Capitol.

On these books hang little disks. Most of the disks are but a few inches in diameter, and are fastened to the wall by a small screw.

There are two stations, also, who come in for their share of chaffing and on whom the old-time weather men would have looked with admiration.

Chicago, Dec. 19.—From Halsted street to the river and from Twelfth street to the university...

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SAVED FIVE BEARS' LIVES.

A NEW YORK LAWYER'S EXPERIENCE IN SULLIVAN COUNTY.

The Natives Were Busy Killing of Bears Unhappily He Thought, but to Save the Heckberry Cows, They Said—At Any Rate, He Broke a Family of Five a Way.

"I saved the lives of five bears, once," said a New York lawyer.

"I was up in Sullivan county, I had gone thither early in the season to pick out some secluded place to spend the summer in."

"The next day a neighbor of ours saw a big bear tramplin' round in his eye field. He looked at the bear's tracks and said, 'That's a good one, but it's a little small for a bear.'"

"The bear was captured alive, but its mate and its two cubs were killed in a slashing on the west shore of Black Lake."

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THE VARIOUS VIEWS EXPRESSED AMONG A STORMBOUND GROUP.

Snow was piled up on the links at Lakewood on Wednesday, and as the air was still quite cold.

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"I have tried the shot with a putter and holding out with a club, but I don't know of any worse than 'I have an orthopedic in my eye.'"

"Most persons begin with too many clubs," the cup winner rejoined, in his sententious way.

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CONGRESS AND THE SEABOARD.

What Has Thus Far Been Accomplished Toward Coast Fortification.

Washington, Dec. 19.—In considering what will be done at the present session for sea-coast defense, it has been accomplished with the provisions made at the last session.

Thus far since the year 1888 there have been appropriated or authorized for the purchase of sites, \$2,326,000; for submarine defenses, \$1,080,000; for gun and mortar batteries, \$5,421,000.

Of this large sum no less than \$9,350,000 was carried by the act of the last session.

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AUSTRALIAN GOLD MINING.

The Boom of the West Australian Gold Mines Described as a Great Meltdown.

Broad Arrow, West Australia, Oct. 31.—The comparative figures of the Western Australian Mining Company registrations for last August show a very striking decline as compared with August, 1895.

But if we take the eight months ended at August of the present year and compare them with last year, we shall find that the registration for the eight months ended at August of 1895, was 29,000,000 ounces of gold.

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RENTAL INCREASING.

The Number in This City Said to Be 85 Per Cent. Greater Than a Year Ago.

New York, Dec. 19.—There were at that time 302 hotels, each with a restaurant attachment, and there were in addition 343 restaurants licensed to sell liquors with meals.

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