

The Journal and Courier

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The weight of the earth is calculated by Professor Boys at 5,322,064,000,000,000,000 tons. And yet there are people on it who, if their own estimate of themselves is correct, can make this enormous mass tremble when they walk.

It is stated that the amount of New England rum sent from Boston to Africa has decreased in the last two years from 1,025,226 gallons to 661,265. The reason for this decrease is not given. Perhaps the Africans are drinking poorer liquor brought from old England.

A London newspaper has collected some facts in regard to the estates left by prominent English lawyers, and finds that forty-four leading solicitors bequeathed to their heirs fortunes averaging \$117,000 (about \$685,000) each. One hundred and one estates of judges and barristers showed an average of about \$400,000 each.

Only Chartrouse made at the monastery of La Grande Chartrouse can be sold under that name in England, by a recent decree of Chancery. A firm at Volron pretends to have the recipe of the monks, and to make the same liqueur; it has been enjoined by the French courts from using the name, and the English courts now also decide that the name is not generic, and that Chartrouse, whether green, yellow or white, can only be used for the product of the monastery.

A man shot through the brain, says Victor Horsley, dies, not through failure of the heart's action, but through the want of breath occasioned by the explosive effect of the bullet passing through the wet brain substance, and consequent injury to the base of the brain. The heart goes on beating, but respiration stops; indeed, the heart is stimulated, not depressed, when a bullet enters the brain, and the proper treatment of a man thus shot is the same as that resorted to in the case of drowned people—one should try to set up artificial respiration.

Cow's milk is almost at the bottom of the list of the food substances that contain iron. As it is so important to infant life, Professor Bunge has been led to experiment on animals to see in what proportion iron is present in the system at different ages. He finds that the younger animals contain much more iron than adults; in a guinea pig or rabbit one hour old, for instance, there is more than four times as much iron as in the same animals two and a half months old. He infers from this that a long-continued exclusive milk diet is not good for babies, but should be supplemented by wheat preparations.

The regimental colors of the United States Infantry are of blue silk and bear in the center the arms of the United States. Below the eagle is a red scroll, with the number and name of the regiment in white. The United States artillery has scarlet regimental colors, with two cannon crossed in the center, with "U. S." in yellow above and the regimental number below. The cavalry regimental standard is a beautiful seamless yellow silk with a four-foot fly and three feet on the lance. The arms of the United States are in blue in the center, and beneath the eagle a red scroll bears the name and number of the regiment in yellow. The United States engineers carry scarlet colors, bearing in the center a castle with "U. S." above and "Engineers" below, castle and lettering being in silver.

The defeat of the Socialists in the recent departmental elections in France was more crushing than the most sanguine of their opponents ventured to expect. In more than 1,400 elections they carried only twelve seats. Commenting upon this fact, the Paris correspondent of the London Times writes: The Socialists, led by Millerand and M. Jaures, have done their best, and their canvassing has been vigorous and ably

conducted. Yet this is the result. It is clear that their peculiar liveliness in the Chamber, their tactics of obstruction and vituperation, and their endeavor to arouse hatred between the various classes of society have begun to fail as alluring qualities in the absence of any positive to be set to their credit. At all events, it is obvious that, where local interests predominate, as they do in departmental elections, the community hesitates to intrust its affairs to such noisy and unpractical theorists. M. Jules Guesde at Roubaix let loose the dogs of war in a campaign which was expected to have a great effect, but his candidate is roundly beaten. Everywhere the result is much the same. Where the Socialists lend their aid to the Radicals, as at Terrasson, where M. Goblet was a candidate, their appearance on the scenes would appear to have injured the latter.

WHERE WAS IT? Where was the Garden of Eden, that beautiful place where Adam was put by God, who had "formed" him; where "the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil;" where Eve was made and "called Woman, because she was taken out of Man;" and where that same Eve, in silly co-operation with the subtle Serpent, promptly took out of Man all his innocence, and all his happiness, changed his life from comfort and content to labor and sorrow, and fixed it so that he must eat bread in such days as these in the sweat of his face. The bible says the garden was "eastward in Eden." It also gives the following hints as to the location of the garden: "And a river went out from Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison; that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good; there is bdellium and the onyx-stone; and the name of the second river is Gihon; the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia; and the name of the third river is Hiddekel; that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria, and the fourth river is Euphrates." This description would perhaps now be a good guide if Eve and the Serpent hadn't changed things in the way they did, but it doesn't tell anything with certainty in the present state of affairs. Josephus and some of the fathers of Christendom thought that the description indicated all the territory between the Ganges and the Nile, Calvin and some of his contemporaries located it in Babylonia, not far from the Persian gulf. Hales, Fisher and other writers claimed that it was in Armenia, near the source of the Tigris and Euphrates, while many modern German biblical students argued that it was in Bactria, or Cashmere, or the region a little to the north of it, which is called, to this day, Audyana, "the garden."

But now comes W. Marsham Adams, whose name is a reminder of the man who lived in the garden until he knew too much, and announces that he believes that the garden was in the region of the great lakes of Africa, where are the heads of four great rivers, "which go forth to water the whole country," viz., the Congo, Nile, Niger and Zambezi, whose seaward basins have an aggregate area of 4,550,000 square miles. In the eastward part of this great basin is the great garden of 3,000 square miles, which Stanley pictured as a natural paradise. Mr. Adams claims that this is the veritable Eden of Genesis, a single river that waters the garden exactly as described in the ancient story. Here Adam and Eve flourished, and from thence their descendants gradually worked their way down to the fertile plains of Egypt, and established the oldest civilization of the world. This is an interesting and a plausible theory. And if the Garden of Eden was where Mr. Adams thinks it was where Adam and Eve negroes, or were there no negroes until Canaan was cursed? By the way, we would respectfully invite the attention of the Hon. Joseph Sheldon of this city to the fact that in the bible's description of the locality of the Garden of Eden there is no mention of silver. Gold is mentioned. Is it not possible that Brother Sheldon in his devotion to silver is tending downward instead of upward? Do not Gold and the Garden of Eden go together, and do not Silver and Sin join hands to plague those who are out of the Garden? Would not Brother Sheldon be more right than he is if he were engaged in pointing his fellow men toward gold and the Edenic ideals instead of toward silver, which does not appear to have been considered in that day when the human race was good?

A PROMISING PLAN. Now that the country is in the hands of the bond syndicate and the Democratic papers are telling of the "phenomenal prosperity" which Cleveland & Co. have brought upon us, talk about plans to help the unemployed doesn't appear to be timely. But there may be a change. The Republicans may come into power again and the present golden age may not always last. So it may be interesting and instructive to look at the plan proposed by a San Fran-

cisco man, who has come to the conclusion that it is not necessary that there should be as many unemployed people as there were before the new Democratic prosperity shone upon the land. He points out that one acre of land can be made to feed bountifully more than five adult persons. Five persons working three hours a day on an acre can bring it to this production. Suppose, then, he says, every county in the State had a farm upon which anyone might go to earn a temporary living. On 100 acres 500 persons could make all they could eat. San Francisco ought to have 1,000 acres; the other counties should have from 100 up to say 500, according to population. This farm should not in any sense be a "poor farm." There should be no tincture of charity connected with it. Any man with or without money should feel at liberty to go there while temporarily out of work. Let the young man who has saved a few hundred dollars feel that he can go there, deposit his money in the safe, and go to work, earning his living instead of spending his savings. Let it be emphatically a home for those temporarily out of work—nothing more. Within a few years these farms would be highly improved and each year would see added fertility to the soil. Here would be an opportunity offered to make an independent living—a living with no shadow of charity in it. After the opportunity shall thus be given, if any man shall still insist on making a nuisance of himself by being idle, put him in the chain gang and make him break rock on the roads, and feed him on meal and water—but first give the opportunity. We have no right to condemn any man—no right to call anyone a tramp or any other hard name—until we have given that man an opportunity to earn an honest living.

There is good sense and real philanthropy in this plan. It would be more profitable for society to give the unemployed a chance to work than it is to make and perpetuate paupers by injudicious and unthinking charity. FASHION NOTES. Carry a Costly Parasol, or—Tan. Unless a woman can have a parasol that is a regular mace of beauty, all ablaze with novelty she'd better risk only a very plain one. When one considers that a parasol in a late magnificent trousseau had ribs of really-true gold, a handle of tortoise shell set with sapphires and diamonds, that it was covered with genuine lace over silk, and that each rib was tipped with a tiny sapphire it is plain what one must aim towards in elaborate parasols. It is far better to pretend to like tan and not protect the face. The tendency to trim skirts is increasing. Some months ago it was suggested that such a move was afoot and now models begin to come in. One of an odd sort is pictured here, a promenade gown of black tulle garnished with cream guipure insertion applied to the tulle in a looped garland around the hem, and in butterflies on the remainder. The skirt has a godet foundation of black silk and the tulle is draped blouse fashion over the fitted bodice lining. In the center of the back and front there is a wide boxpleat, and the rest of the tulle is rather full at the sides of each. The draped stock collar, the tabs over the shoulders and the belt are white satin, or may be of white wash silk. The use of fine and ruffled lawn has extended to the skirt and some new models are made to fall open in front over a petticoat of flounced lawn. A voluminous Louis XVI beruffled fichu of the same lawn completes a gown that except for the large sleeves would be characteristic of the close shouldered period. Certain it is that if looseness of bodice and befrillment of skirt prevail, there will be a change in sleeves. For fashion has, after all, her idea of proportion, and she never dictates the swelling of more than one feature of a gown at a time. FLORETTE. INSIGNIFICANT. Millbank—What an insignificant man Purvell is! Derrlingforth—You must have seen him when his wife was with him.—Puck. "Why is it that on the hottest day Wilkins never takes off his coat?" "Sh! His wife makes his shirts."—Chicago Record. "What game have you to-day?" he asked as he entered the western cafe. "Dice and poker," said the waiter.—Harper's Bazar. "No," observed the cow, "I will hold my temper. I suspect that red parasol is merely a trap to get me into trouble with the new woman."—Detroit Tribune. Thomas—Have they named the twins over at your house yet? John—Yes; pe called them Thunder and Lightning as soon as he heard about them.—Truth.

"Woggles had a lot of money at one time. What became of it?" "He blew it in." "How?" "Invested it in a pneumatic railway scheme."—Washington Star.

Mrs. Slam—I understand that your husband has gone into real estate of late. Mrs. Hamm—Yes; six feet of it in Greenwood. He's dead.—New York World.

"I see Mrs. Alfire has had her late husband's likeness set in a miniature and wears him under her chin." "H'm! She wore him under her thumb when he was alive."—Detroit Free Press.

"It was by being too tender-hearted that I got here," explained the gentleman behind the bars. "S'fid of takin' all the feller had I left him enough to hire a lawyer and a jury on."—Indianapolis Journal.

Police Sergeant—Is the man dangerously wounded? Irish Police Surgeon—Two of the wounds are mortal; but the third can be cured, provided the man keeps perfectly quiet for at least six weeks.—Tit-Bits.

Penologist—Our prisons and penitentiaries are a disgrace to civilization. The convicts are abused, uncared for and poorly fed. Can you suggest a remedy? Philanthropist—Yes; let them keep out of such places.—Puck.

"Mamie is such a conscientious little goose," said one summer girl to another. "How's that?" "She thinks she must go to the trouble of breaking one engagement before contracting another."—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

COMMUNICATIONS. The Law for the Prevention of Blindness. To the Editor of the JOURNAL AND COURIER: The oppressive summer heat is at its height; the local residents, except the members of the stay-at-home club, are off for their summer vacations; the local, state and national elections are not yet upon us; the international yacht race and athletic contests are events of the future; the humidity is not conducive to philosophical disquisitions or original investigations. In short, the season is dull for lively topics for the earnest consideration of the faithful, hard working editorial writer. Hence I was not much surprised to read your editorial of the 14th inst. upon sore-eyed babies. The temptation was too strong to resist. This same baby has furnished subject matter for many a funny writer even in the cool, calm, busy winter season.

Now that you have shown what seems to you the amusing side of the recently enacted law for the prevention of blindness and have had your little fling at the least legislative body, permit me, if you please, to present the serious aspect of the sore-eyed baby question and possibly convince you that the legislature in this instance may not have been asinine in passing this particular law. According to the returns up to 1887, there were in Europe and the United States 234,245 blind people. The average results of investigators indicate that about 24 per cent. of all blindness is due to ophthalmia of the new-born, so that 76,213 people existed in the above mentioned countries in a condition of blindness due to that one disease, 70,000 of whom should have been enjoying useful vision because ophthalmia of the new-born is a preventable disease. Let us consider our own country alone. While the population increased from 1870 to 1890, 30.99 per cent., the number of blind increased 140.78 per cent. In fact, the blindness is increasing four times as rapidly as the population, largely due, I presume, to the rapidly increasing foreign population.

If the humanitarian view of this question should fall to appeal to you, perhaps the point of view of the economist might. Well, the cost of caring for the blind in this country amounts to more than \$25,000,000 annually. Now, as to the desirability of legislation which should force nurses and attendants to bring these children to the notice of practitioners while the disease is still in the very early stage. The story is a familiar one of the infant being brought to the office of the oculist, with the eye ulcerated, or, perhaps, perforated, and the mother thinking that the child has "taken cold" and requires no further treatment than hot water or milk, which has been applied to the eyes. And the scene also is unfortunately familiar, of the mother weeping over a hopeless blind child, all simply because the nurse had thought that the infant had merely taken cold, and had been relying upon some of the numerous household remedies just a little too long.

Education of the laity is useless. It has been tried. Urging nurses, professional and otherwise, is equally insufficient. It remains only to place the responsibility at once where it belongs by imposing upon such persons a severe penalty. The surest and best means of accomplishing this is undoubtedly legislation. This was the view taken by those who have considered it most carefully, and the law passed by the last Connecticut legislature (and eight or ten other States) is essentially that recommended by a specially appointed committee from the American Ophthalmological Society, and he it "paternal, maternal or grandmaternal" it is right and it will be enforced, and in years to come there will be, as a result, fewer people unable to absorb the contents of your valuable newspaper by direct vision.

I am confident you would consider this law worthy of your encouragement and support rather than condemnation if you could attend a large charity eye clinic some fall day and witness some of the distressing scenes as a result of neglected eyes in infancy. H. W. R.

The American "ater-Lily. The magnificent Victoria Regia, or American water-lily, known better as the Amazon or Royal lily, has its home, as the name indicates, in the Amazon river. It has been called by botanists "the most beautiful plant in the world," and it is said that when the student Haenke first saw it, "he fell upon his knees in a transport of admiration." The leaves, measuring sometimes six feet in diameter, are of a beautiful, shining green, with a raised margin as they float upon the water of from three to five inches, the under part of which

is colored deep crimson. Their rapid growth is phenomenal in the plant world, and it is said that they often increase eight inches in diameter in a single day. The net-work is also especially worth noting, and from its careful designing Sir Joseph Paxton, first conceived the perfection of architectural structure, which he sets forth in the Crystal Palace, at London, and which has been copied in nearly all the great buildings that have been erected since. The tissue of the leaf is so exceedingly fine that a straw dropping vertically upon it from a distance of six feet would penetrate its substance, yet the wonderful complication of the framework is so nicely adjusted that a man weighing one hundred and fifty pounds could easily be borne on one of the leaves. Several of the leaves of the Shaw's Garden plant would, it is said, support a weight of four hundred pounds, if evenly distributed.

But it is the hundred-petalled flower, with its grace and fragrance, which has brought the plant its greatest fame. This measure usually from twelve to twenty-three inches in diameter, and is a pure white when it opens. It blooms thus for a night, closing at about nine o'clock in the morning, and opens again shortly before sunset, this time a vivid pink and with a deeper fragrance than before. The third night it is a dark red or purple, and in the morning its glory ends.

Mr. James Gurney, the venerable superintendent of Tower Grove Park and head gardener of the garden, had the honor of bringing to bloom the first plant in England, and presenting the flower to Queen Victoria, in whose honor it was named.

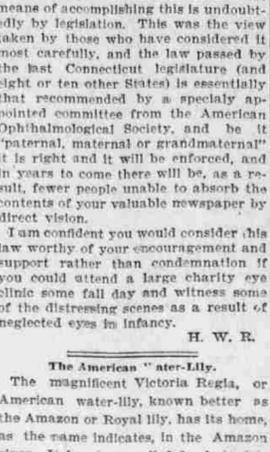
The plant was first seen in 1801 by the botanist Haenke, and it was introduced in England and this country about the middle of the century. It will thrive only under the greatest care, and the temperature must be kept at eighty degrees Fahrenheit. In South America, its native country, it is valued much for its seeds, which are crushed into flour and baked as bread. The Guarani Indians call the plant Yupeu or "water-platter," and, when gathering the seeds, it is said, they will put their little pa-pooes to rest or play upon the broad leaves, with a goatskin at their feet, while the elders ward the stream.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

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"The thief who broke into my shop last night," said the false-hair merchant, "reminds me very much of a firecracker." "How was that?" asked his friend. "He went off with a bang," sighed the hair merchant.—Harper's Bazar. A Point of Law—Lawyer—Your case would have been stronger, Mr. McGuire, if you had acted only on the defensive. But you struck first. If you had let him strike you first, you would have had the law on your side. Mr. McGuire—Yes, O'd had th' law on my side, but O'd 'a' had him on my stomach a poundin' th' loife out av me.—New York Weekly.

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