

FOREIGN NEWS AND GOSSIP.

The district messenger service has been organized in London.

Saint-Saens' "Ascanio" has scored a great success in Paris.

A railroad is now actually talked of between Mecca and Jeddah.

Prayers for a cessation of rain have been ordered in Great Britain.

There are about half a million bicycles and tricycles turning in Great Britain.

A Russian magnate has committed suicide after squandering his fortune on a dancing girl.

There is an exhibition at Islington, England, a sewing machine patented by Thomas Saint in 1780.

The oil borings in Belochistan have lately proved very successful. The daily output of oil is doubled.

The corporation of London has made a contract for supplying electric lights to a large portion of the city.

France pays \$400,000 out of the public funds to subsidize newspapers for the support of the Government.

The latest Spanish census, taken in 1887, gives a population of 17,550,216. The gain in ten years was only 951,905.

A private letter dated Jerusalem, July 8th, says that a railway from Port Jaffa to Jerusalem is being pushed ahead as rapidly as possible.

Private advices from Zanzibar state that all the foreigners there except the Germans welcome the establishment of a British protectorate.

A large mass of De Quincey's correspondence has been lately found, throwing new light on his character and career, and generally to his credit.

Telegraphic communication has now been established between Mecca and Jeddah, the famous pearl-fishing and trading station on the coast of the Red Sea.

The three ocean cables between Java and Australia were all broken on the same day recently, and it is believed it must have been done by an earthquake.

Work has now been resumed at the Channel Tunnel deep borings, after being temporarily suspended to admit of more powerful machinery being erected.

England consumes 650 tons of ivory per year, for which it is necessary to kill 12,000 elephants. Consequently the African mammoth is in danger of extinction.

The summer in Europe, and especially on the Continent, has been abominable. Rain and hurricane have alternated with singular rapidity for three or four weeks.

David Dalton, an American, proposes to swim the English channel between Folkestone and Boulogne early in August. The distance is about twenty-two miles.

The arms of Italy have been altered on the national seal and flag. The two small flags are left out and the collar of the Annunciate and several other orders are added.

The International Association for the Suppression of Gambling at Monte Carlo have scored one success by a side movement upon the Casino of Tangier. It has shut it up.

Mr. Ritt has offered to spend half a million francs in redecorating the Paris Opera House, on condition of being made a director for seven years and an officer of the Legion of Honor.

The French Budget Committee has approved the credits asked by the Minister of Commerce to lay a cable between France and England and to establish telephones between Paris and London.

The Black Sea fleet, which has been considerably augmented during recent years, is to be still further increased. The construction of four more large war vessels has been ordered at Sebastopol and Nikolaief.

Among the large estates three advertised for sale in Queensland may be considered. The first has an area of 454 square miles, of which the rent is \$1,600. The second has 648 square miles, and the third 553. The one most advantageously situated is "within 100 miles of a railroad."

In a chapel of Paris, the Notre dame des Etudiantes, is the organ that once belonged to Marie Antoinette. The instrument has lately been renovated, and was played upon during Easter holy days, when works by Glueck and Mozart, the very masters who performed upon it during their lifetime, were heard.

WHO SHOULD COUNT THE QUORUM? But it may be asked, is it not a dangerous innovation upon parliamentary usages to give the House the power to count a quorum? Here we have the real ground upon which the position of Speaker Reed may be fairly criticised. The power to count a quorum is, indeed, a dangerous power to intrust to a servant of the House, and one which should never have been conferred upon him. Rule XV, is a salutary reform so far as it asserts the principle that a quorum consists of a majority of the members present in the House, whether voting or silent, and that the members present are presumptively present to do business. The method of ascertaining the presence of members under this rule is, however, entirely reprehensible. Under a parliamentary system which requires a majority to constitute a quorum, when the roll-call shows less than a majority voting, though a majority are clearly within the chamber, a system should be devised for ascertaining the number present which would leave nothing to vagueness or conjecture.

The quorum should be counted by the House, and not by the clerk or by the Speaker. The whole number present should be counted, and not the bare number necessary to make a quorum. When it is apparent that a quorum is actually present, while less than a quorum has voted, it is entirely competent and proper for the House to direct that the members who abstain from voting should be placed at the bar, and that in the presence of the whole House their attendance be noted and they themselves counted as of the quorum. Such a proceeding would remove any element of doubt as to the identity of the members constituting the quorum. Such a rule would not be in violation of the provisions of Rule VIII, as they now exist, nor with any additional clause which might be adopted providing a penalty for a failure to obey its provisions. It would operate to preserve a more accurate record of the proceedings than any which has been heretofore known to Congress, by showing for the benefit of their constituents which members voted, which failed to vote through non attendance, and which refused to vote in open defiance of the ruler.

No more trouble about fresh cream if you use Highland Unsweetened Condensed Milk. Ask your grocer for it.

Pins and Needles.

Two ladies of Lewiston, Me., take six mille walks before breakfast for their health.

Water solutions are difficult to mix with vaseline, but it is said this difficulty can be overcome by means of a little castor oil.

Can American genius invent a pot for boiling cabbage without perfuming the neighborhood?

Another admirable stimulant for exhaustion is a mixture of five drops of chloroform with a teaspoonful of red lavender in a glass of water.

The official directory of the New York Central shows that of the 306 station agents on the road twenty-six are women.

A turtle teapot made of blue and white Owarl ware, its upturned head and neck serving for the spout, is imported from Japan and costs \$1.

Boiling water should not be poured on tea trays, japanned goods, etc., as it will make the varnish crack and peel off.

The magnificent and wonderful frosting with which the caterer's art covers the wedding cake is now removable before the cake is cut, so that it may be used again and again.

Sponging the face with water containing a few drops of carbolic acid will drive away flies and other insect pests.

Although a man marries but once he always has as many wives as children. Every child brings his wife a new mood. Have you three children you have four wives.

A novel lace pin representing the four faces, or different phases, of the moon is very pretty. The faces are enamelled on rolled gold and vary in color.

Tea Making. In preparing tea, the water to be used should never be poured directly from the kitchen kettle into the urn. It should be cold, fresh water, brought absolutely to the boiling point. The tea used will, of course, differ according to taste, but none is better for the purpose than the best English breakfast. The leaves must be placed in the pot in the proportion of a heaping teaspoonful to each person. Upon these leaves pour a small quantity of boiling water; never use all of the latter needed at once, as a sudden rush will certainly "draw" the tea.

Now pull the cozy over the teapot and allow the contents to draw a few moments, when you will have the best infusion possible; repeat this process as many times as needed; after using the first potful and filling once more with boiling water the tea loses its strength and flavor. Boiled tea is hurtful and breakfast tea should never be steeped upon the stove. It will not often be necessary to strain where these directions are followed, but the sudden addition of water floats the leaves, which do not again settle.—Exchange.

Material for Roller Towels. The best thing of which to make roller towels is Russian crash. I am told it is woven by hand by Russian peasants. At any rate, the best and medium qualities are more satisfactory for roller towels than any other crash I know, and are least objectionable when new. Just here comes in a word as to when to begin using new towels. Let it be in the summer time, when skins are not chapped or sensitive, and when laundry work is so much easier that the conscience feels less compunction at putting slightly soiled towels into the wash for frequent laundering. One who has ever supplied towels for a group of growing boys and girls will know that new towels in winter make sorry work. Nor is this at variance with the advice to buy in the winter. Buy and freeze, and then wait for summer to continue the necessary softening process.—Cor. Good Housekeeping.

Useful Fancy Work. If you are not an adept with the embroidery needle, and your forte lies more in making useful than ornamental articles, you may indulge yourself in the pleasure of making toilet cases for your friends. These need not be made of oiled silk, which is always ugly and difficult to sew, but of heavy gray linen or of fine bed ticking, both of which are strong, thick and durable. Your own judgment must guide you as to the number and size of compartments that are necessary or desirable, and your taste must decide the colors. You have always your own toilet articles for guide as to size, and, of course, you know what you want for comfort when packing them for a journey. This is fancy work that will bear interruptions, and may be picked up or thrown down without injury.—New York Star.

Boiled Eggs. It is the common way to boil eggs only about five minutes and call them hard. They are then very "hard" of digestion. Boil ten minutes and they are still hard and soggy. Boil them twenty minutes and they become light and mealy, and may be easily mashed and seasoned. To boil eggs so that they shall be "soft" drop the whole eggs carefully into boiling water and boil steadily three and a half minutes by the watch. This is a common method, though the white is hardened the yolk is scarcely cooked at all. Another method is to lay the eggs in a warm basin or saucapan and cover with boiling water. Let them remain without boiling, but where the water will keep hot for ten minutes. Both yolk and white will be cooked soft.—Hall's Journal of Health.

A Word About Amazons. The Dahomey imbroglio has brought the word "amazon" to the front, which is generally accepted to mean "without breast," though Littré alludes to the unknown origin of the word, while suggesting that amazon may be a geographical or mythological term. As for the legend that amazons were Cappadocian she soldiers, who burned off the right breast of their daughters to facilitate the drawing of the bow, M. Pavot remarks that this is not necessary, as a lady has only to follow fencing lessons with passion, equestrianism and violent exercises in general when she will become equal to that true type of amazonism—man.—Paris Cor. Pittsburg Press.

Perfumed ink is a new fad. Not satisfied with scenting her fans, her gowns, her hair, her furniture, her stationery, my lady goes further and perfumes her writing fluid so that her notes go broadcast like a waft from Araby the blest.

"A GROWL." Mr. Editor: Although my taxes are small, yet they are as burdensome to me as if I paid much more. And as a tax-payer, I feel that I have a right to criticize those extravaganzas that are factors in the creation of high taxes. I have in my mind the county hospital. No sooner does the impecunious citizen become broken down and debilitated, than he rushes off to the hospital. Even persistent dyspepsia and constipation are getting to be excuses for admission. Hence, allow me space to enter my feeble protest against further continuance of this pernicious practice. It costs the county many hard dollars for the treatment of every one of these unfortunate, and it is high time that they should know that they can save the county that expense, and themselves those distressing ailments, by the judicious use of a few bottles of Joy's Vegetable Sarsaparilla,—a remedy that within my observation is a sovereign cure for those too common disorders. If they won't take it they ought to be compelled to by some law that would meet the case. Under the circumstances a full hospital is inexorable,—hence this growl. CITIZEN.

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