

Professor Huxley knows of no a priori reason "why snake-bodied reptiles fifty feet long and upward should not disport themselves in our seas as they did in those of the cretaceous epoch."

The St. Louis Republic takes no stock in the theory of the overproduction of cotton. It says that when the Southern farmers raised all their foodstuff they cannot produce too much cotton.

Walter B. Harris and R. G. Cuningham-Graham, two Londoners, assert that they encountered in Southern Morocco, at the foot of the Atlas Mountains, a dozen or fourteen men, none of whom were over four feet and a half tall.

It is probable, predicts the San Francisco Chronicle, that the device for dispensing with the services of telegraph operators will be like the machine for setting type. Human ingenuity can go a long way, but it cannot furnish brains, and brains are very essential in telegraphy.

According to the Courier-Journal the great scramble for gold is now regarded in Europe as a sign that European peace is soon to be broken. Gold is not only being locked up in the Imperial Treasury of Russia, but in storehouses of other continental Governments, and the feeling of anxiety on this account is widespread.

The London Graphic has a portrait and sketch of Potara, a Maori cannibal, who is eighty-five years old and still has a good set of natural teeth. He has not eaten a white man since 1816. He speaks well of white folks, but for a steady diet prefers a Maori, as the whites, or "Pakehas," have "a salty and bitter flavor." Potara must have a retentive memory of his tastes.

Pork is dearer now than it has been in ten years, or since Bismarck began to make war on the American hog. This is doubtless in part due to the opening of European markets to our pork. With better prices for pork beans have also advanced, and the traditional New England dish of pork and beans has now to be paid for by those who would enjoy it.

No sooner have European aeronauts improved their balloons almost to the point of perfection for military uses than along comes a Russian scientist with an apparatus which captures the rays of the sun and employs them to burn the balloons. A Russian paper states that the balloons can be burned when at a distance of five kilometers from the person handling the apparatus.

Within the past two years a number of reefs and islands in the Pacific Ocean, long known to mariners, have disappeared from view, leaving no evidence that they ever existed. No one understands the phenomenon, unless it be that here and there the floor of the ocean has subsided with unusual rapidity, though not with such violence as to be betrayed by the agitation of the sea. The fact is simply known that these stretches of reef or bits of land, some of them rising from the depths, and all marked on the charts, can no longer be found. One or two war ships, with orders to visit some of these places, have cruised around in great bewilderment, unable to find the objects of their quest.

Italy expends every year \$98,000,000 for her soldiers, and less than \$4,000,000 for schools. In Spain it costs \$100,000,000 to maintain the army, and only \$1,800,000 to educate the children; but then, it is the exception to find a Spanish farmer who is able to read or write. Garayza boasts of being in the foremost rank among the Nations in the Kulturkampf of the world; yet she expends \$185,000,000 on her army, while \$10,000,000 is deemed sufficient for the education of her children. France maintains an army at an expense of \$151,000,000 and supports her schools with \$21,000,000. The United States expend \$115,000,000 for public schools, while the army and navy cost only \$54,000,000.

The experiment of an electric street railway postal car, which had been tried in St. Louis, has been such a success as to warrant its use in other cities, notes the New York News. The St. Louis postmaster reports that the results have been eminently successful in every particular. The car is twenty-eight feet long, including the front and rear platforms, and eight and one-half feet wide. It is fitted up inside somewhat like a railway postoffice, and is operated by a double dynamo, with a capacity of twenty-five miles an hour. The city and suburban route over which it travels is eighteen miles long, and the number of pieces of local mail received and delivered, at a saving of from four to five hours each, has been 300 to 500 daily.

DIXIE NEWS.

The Beloved South Gleaned and Epitomized.

All the News and Occurrences Printed Here in Condensed Form.

Two men were drowned from boats in Neuse river, North Carolina, last week.

At Pickens, S. C., Major Symmes was on Wednesday found guilty of manslaughter, and a new trial was refused.

Gabriel Smith, aged 83 years, and Miss Florence Webster, aged 25 years, were married in Luray, Va., last week.

Congressman Talbert declines to tell a reporter whether he will or not be a candidate for United States Senator from South Carolina.

The colored firemen of North Carolina were by the last Legislature given a relief fund of \$600 a year, and will form a State association.

Mrs. Frank Overby, of Fayetteville, N. C., while alone in her room Wednesday afternoon, was taken with a fit, fell in the fire and was burned to death.

The people of the county of Montgomery, N. C., are very much excited over the discovery of a very rich gold mine. The mine is located on the property of Jones Cotton.

One of the negroes implicated in the butchery of Henry Twittman and wife, at Lincolnville, S. C., last Saturday night, has been arrested and lodged in jail in Charleston.

Judge Wm. B. R-dman died at his home at Washington, Beaufort county, N. C., Tuesday morning, in the 66th year. He was a member of the Supreme Court of the State from 1869 to 1878.

Henry Brooks was arrested for horse-stealing at Charlotteville, Va., early Monday morning, and lodged in jail. He was hotly pursued all night, eluding his pursuers until finally captured in the Ragged Mountains.

The white coon that has baffled the hunters of Accomac county, Va., for several months was captured quite recently. It was the intention to send it on a train to the great West, but it was killed by the fire of the night in which it was captured.

Mrs. Levi Huggins, of Henderson county, N. C., was standing in front of the store when a young girl, about ten years of age, came running from the store, crying and holding a bottle of turpentine and it fell in the fire and ignited. The child's clothing caught and it was so burned that her condition is yet critical.

Columbia, S. C., is afflicted just now with a French bronchitis which French (of course), shows whole bundles of letters and off to furnish \$100,000 capital for a partnership in Mr. C. R. Hill's dry goods business. The wary Columbians seem disposed to reject his letters and much disposed to reject his \$100,000.

Robert Terry, while intoxicated, entered the Virginia and North Carolina wheel factory at Richmond. He was warned by the workmen to keep away from the machinery. This he failed to do, for while the back of the carriage was turned Terry stumbled over the carriage and the saw connected with it cut his body in two, the head falling on one side and his legs on the other.

The charter of the North Carolina Farmers' Alliance was not forfeited by the Legislature, as had been proposed, but the amount contributed by each Allianced man can be withdrawn at his option, and the common fund has been so protected that it can easily be ascertained whether it is being perverted from legitimate objects.

The street car system of Tallahassee, Fla., consisting of one car, is operated by "a colored man and a mule," both of whom live only to please the people. If the car happens to be going one way and a passenger wants to go in the opposite direction he has only to say so and the mule immediately hitched to the other end and the car started in the desired direction.

Around Lower Oakland, S. C., the farmers have determined to raise more grain than last year, and will considerably reduce the acreage of cotton. The weather, which for some time has been too wet to allow spring planting, has cleared, and ground is now being broken. There is a very heavy demand for fertilizers, and it is expected that the crops will be unusually abundant.

E. Kirby Smith, who is prominent just now because he is the sole surviving full general of the Confederacy, is 75 years old. He is described as white-haired, lean, graceful, of medium height and with undimmed eyes. His hair is truly patriarchal. He dresses entirely in black, with a black necktie, and wears on the lapel of his coat a little badge that is in form and color a miniature reproduction of a Confederate ensign.

There are two parties in Memphis—a good and a wicked one. The former has been waging bitter war on the gamblers and lewd women threatens to impeach Judge Du Bose, of the Criminal Court, is alleged to be at the head of the wicked party. He has turned the tables, however, by having a number of the good indicted for rioting houses to fallen women for immoral purposes. Sometimes those who wear the uniform of the truly good really belong to the wicked party.

A cablegram from Paris announces that the Waldenses in their last synod resolved to send two delegates to North Carolina to make inquiries regarding the advantages possessed by that State for settlers. This is a remarkable movement. The Waldenses, or Waldensians, are the famous sect inhabiting a mountain valley on the Italian side of the Alps, where for centuries they have maintained the Protestant faith against every persecution. They constitute the united link between the Presbyterian Church as it exists today and the Apostolic Church. No novel ever presented a more interesting story than the actual life of the Waldenses. Through famine, war and persecution they have maintained the primitive faith. During late years they have not been able to support themselves at their trade of cloth making.

A bill which has been introduced in the Oklahoma Legislature makes the playing of progressive euchre, a felony when prizes are offered.

THE RULE OF ROTATION.

Postmaster General Biessell Wants No Local Applications.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Postmaster General Biessell is accredited with the announcement that no local business men need apply for postoffices under his administration. He objects to commissioning local business in a postoffice as performed by irresponsible and often incompetent clerks and substitutes. Postmasters under the Biessell regime must promise to devote their entire time to the work and personally keep strict office hours.

Rep. representative Springer, of Illinois, who was one of the President's callers, asked him if the rule of not appointing men who had held office under his four years ago was to prevail as reported. The President replied in the affirmative, and when asked if the rule was inflexible, Mr. Cleveland responded that it would be so substantially; there might be exceptional and extraordinary circumstances which might cause some departure from it but he could not call to mind many possibilities to justify a change from the policy decided upon. Mr. Springer asked if the rule was also to apply to fourth class postoffices. Mr. Cleveland's response was that he had not thought about that, but he gave the decided impression that it would prevail to as great an extent as possible with the small postmasterships.

The President sent the following nominations to the Senate: Josiah Quincy, of Massachusetts, to be Assistant Secretary of State; Robert A. Maxwell, of New York, to be Fourth Assistant Postmaster General; Isaac E. Gray, of Indiana, to be envoy extraordinary, and minister plenipotentiary of the United States to Mexico; Patrick A. Collins, of Massachusetts, to be consul general of the United States at London; Edward Mansfield Shipp, of Virginia, to be assistant surgeon in the navy.

HILL AND CLEVELAND.

The Senator Calls on the President. By Appointment.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The one great feature of interest in political circles Thursday was the visit of Senator David B. Hill to his greatest political rival, President Cleveland.

Senator Hill came to the White House Tuesday morning by appointment, presumably arranged by Congress and the President. Mr. Hill's visit to Cleveland on Tuesday. His visit was more than a mere perfunctory call as attested by the length of the interview. It lasted twenty minutes, and during that time Mr. Cleveland received no cards from waiting politicians in the cabinet room.

Senator Hill came to the White House on Tuesday morning by appointment, presumably arranged by Congress and the President. Mr. Hill's visit to Cleveland on Tuesday. His visit was more than a mere perfunctory call as attested by the length of the interview. It lasted twenty minutes, and during that time Mr. Cleveland received no cards from waiting politicians in the cabinet room.

When Senator Hill entered the President's room word was sent to the doorman, or that Mr. Cleveland was very busy and engaged and could not see any visitors for some time. As a consequence the arriving delegations soon filled the cabinet room and by the time Mr. Hill left the White House there were more men than seats in the sparsely furnished room.

The interview was of course of a strictly private character, but from the fact that it had been previously arranged and from its length there can be little doubt that it was of more than a mere official or social character.

A COLORED FOLKS' TOWN.

They Won't Give Up Possession When the Sheriff Tries Evicting.

RALPH, N. C.—News has been received here of a sensational affair at James City, a negro town near New Bern, growing out of an attempt by the Sheriff to forcibly evict the negro residents from land which the Supreme Court of the United States has decided to be the property of James A. Bryan, of New Bern.

Negroes have been settling on this land, which is across Trent river from New Bern, ever since 1893, believing it to be the property of the Government, and there are now in the settlement several thousand negroes. Ten years ago Mr. Bryan, to whom the land really belonged, began proceedings to reclaim it, and the courts decided in his favor. He made several attempts to remove the negroes and their property upon amicable terms, but they indignantly refused all offers.

Wednesday Sheriff Laroque and a posse went to James City to evict them. At the first house where notice was served the negroes told the officers they would die before they would be evicted. A flag was run up in the middle of the street, and in a few minutes one thousand negroes had gathered and ominous growls went up. They said they would fight for their rights and die before they would surrender. The sheriff and posse were forced to retire. Great excitement prevailed, and it is not known where the matter will end.

PREFERRED STARVATION.

A Colored Prisoner Fasts for Days on Account of a Joke.

COLUMBUS, O.—Moses Allen, a superstitious Federal colored prisoner, sent to the Ohio Penitentiary from Tennessee, has refused to take nourishment for several days. The Deputy Warden asked him who he was fasting, and was informed that some of the guards had told him that in the near future he would be obliged to sleep in the dead-house, owing to the crowded condition of the cells. Allen felt so sure that he would see ghosts every night that he concluded to starve himself to death before that fate arrived.

When told that it was merely a joke, Allen threw his arms about the deputy's neck and exclaimed: "Well, brother, if dat an sho' enough 'I's ready for a pot of biled cabbage."

The First Cleveland Postmaster. WASHINGTON, D. C.—The first postmaster given under the new administration is Newton A. Hamilton, who was appointed postmaster at Perra, Lincoln county, Tennessee.

THE CANNING BUSINESS.

Important Information.

"The South Carolina Canning Business."

W. F. Williams, of Wicksboro, S. C., makes the following inquiries: "Will you please tell me to which party it would take to establish the business of canning fruit and vegetables, and which such an enterprise would pay?"

Looking to the end of the subject information available to me, I have to refer to the fact that the business of canning fruit and vegetables, continued in the business four years and then gave it up. Mr. Lanier is an energetic, enterprising and successful business man and his success in the business of canning fruit and vegetables is a fact which could be obtained by a visit to his establishment in South Carolina. The information communicated was in a conversation which is herewith given in substance:

"Mr. Lanier, would you object to give some information about the business of canning fruit and vegetables?" asked the reporter.

"Give me an idea of what sort of information you want, and I'll give it to you if I can."

"What is the cost of the necessary plant or equipment and is there any profit in the business?"

"To start with the first question," answered Mr. Lanier, "the plant necessary to can fruit or vegetable on any ordinary scale is insignificant. An outfit could be put up for less than \$1,000, with which about fifty hands could pack 5,000 cans per day. This outfit would consist of a steam boiler of 8 or 10 horse power, besides which the cooking kettles, piping and other appliances would not cost over \$500. I could show anybody a complete plant here at any time, but it is not in operation now. There are no secrets about the business, and the process is a very simple indeed. Anyone of good ordinary intelligence can learn to properly prepare and pack most of the fruit and vegetables in a few days. The work can be done in any ordinary building that will afford shelter. One thousand dollars ought to fit a plant up in good shape if a building is available."

"Now to go on to the second question. While I am out of the business, at least temporarily, it is not because there is no money in it. The conditions surrounding the business have made it a very harassing one and I had had enough to look after to such an extent that I preferred to quit rather than to correct the same."

"The farmers do not do a business of raising fruit or vegetables and it is hard to get them to co-operate in a way to produce a regular supply of good material. The business is a very hard one to run, and it would bring five times as much as we could handle, and of course we couldn't buy it all. Then those who failed to sell would tell everybody we didn't want any more stuff, and then we would be very scant for a couple of days. Then, too, they would bring good, bad and indifferent stuff, entailing considerable work to sort and get what was fit to pack. These irregularities made the business of handling the labor difficult. One day we would have more hands than we had work for, and the next day we would have more stuff than we had hands to work. I planted some vegetables myself and always made out well with what I got off my own farm. My tomatoes were considered especially fine wherever I sold them. In Maryland the farmers do not do a business of raising fruit or vegetables, but they can take just so much to the picking house every day and they are informed that none but selected products are wanted."

"The whole business must be done inside of four months, and most of it is done inside of 60 days. If peaches could be made on this section as a crop, a profit of at least 20 per cent. could easily be made on them alone; but sometimes we have no peaches at all. Garden peas are also in good demand, and would be very profitable, but I could get very few, and even when I tried to raise them myself the results were very poor. They don't seem to grow well about Salisbury."

"The simple establishing of a canning factory and a knowledge of how to treat and pack fruit and vegetables, is not enough to make a success of the business. It must be understood what sort of goods are in demand and will bring good prices, and provision must be made to get a regular supply of stuff. It won't do to rely on the farmers until they get much better acquainted with the business than they are now. Apples, beans and corn are low priced and unprofitable. Peaches, garden peas and cherries are always high priced and profitable. The best results I got were from vegetables. I raised myself, and from peaches, and I think it would be best for anyone going into the business to start a vegetable and fruit farm, relying on this farm for the bulk of the material, and then buy only such stuff as the farmers brought in good shape, and only from farmers who would be regular in supplying a certain amount of stuff at regular intervals. The farmers would naturally do better each year. In this way the business could be made very profitable."

"Even in the way in which I ran it there could be some money made when prices were fair, but it is too harassing in the present condition of the material markets—especially to a man with other business to look after. The goods are a ready sale. I sold goods in St. Louis, Memphis and other places and they gave entire satisfaction. The Salisbury freights were against me both on the consuming end and the goods going out, but even then there is nothing to prevent making this a fair business if a man could stand the worry with the farmers and the hauls."

"I should think that down in South Carolina, where fruit and vegetables can be raised in abundance and the crop is sure each year, that a very excellent business could be made, and would develop to very large proportions if looked after and pushed. There is ought to be made beforehand, though, for a good and regular supply of material to pack, and if it can be done in no other way a

man ought to start a truck fruit farm and get the goods before trying to do any packing, and then develop the business by educating the farmers. Committed in this way and to follow it up with business care, the South could beat the world on canned vegetables and fruits."

Interesting Suit for Damages.

After all, the most obvious function of the court is the one of least value. It should doubtless be advisable to restrict the court simply for what they do best, and that is administering justice. It is their greatest use is in bringing general public occurrences of a nature which would otherwise not be heard, and the neighborhood where they take place. This was admirably illustrated recently in the Weekly when it gave an account of the case of Drinkwater vs. Campbell, an interesting and interesting instance of a collision between two roles which never would have been taken into the law courts. Again we find the same thing in the case of Millikan vs. Eames, a suit for damages brought in a local court of Running Water, Kansas.

It appears that the defendant, Mr. Eames, has a farm near Running Water which is largely devoted to stock raising. There are, Mr. Eames, some two or three weeks ago, he alone the road from the direction of Big Grassopper with his earthly possessions tied up in a bandanna handkerchief and hung over his shoulder on a lath, and asked Mr. Eames for work. Eames looked him over, saw that he did not carry a watch or have other outward indications of the duke, and hired him for the season at twenty dollars a month. Thus after some general insinuations about the work, Eames for Running Water to get the milk, where, being an enthusiastic Populist, he staid till evening and denounced the government.

It appears further that Eames is a bit of an experimenter, and that early in the winter he bought a buffalo cow from "Buffalo" Jones of Goodnight, the same man from whom Austin Corbin and others got their bison. We ought, for the benefit of the ordinary reader, to be right here, in regard to the American buffalo, that though it gives brilliant promise of becoming a valuable domestic animal, up to date the cow of the species has not been milked by the weak and, as we may say, flimsy hand of man. We are assured by those who ought to know that a man might as well try to shoe an ox without the usual heavy frame-work and tackle as to attempt to milk a buffalo cow; and as to shoeing an ox without apparatus, a Vermont blacksmith has already said in print that a man "might as well lie down on his stomach and try to get up on his feet."

But of all the things that a man might do, the most absurd is to attempt to milk a buffalo cow. It is a laborious and a dangerous business, and it is not to be undertaken by a man who is not a professional milker. The farmer who does so is a fool, and he who hires him is a fool. The farmer who does so is a fool, and he who hires him is a fool. The farmer who does so is a fool, and he who hires him is a fool.

When the milking time came Millikan put on a pair of overalls, took two tin pails, and proceeded to do the work. He milked two or three ordinary and, as we may call them still cows, and then approached the sparkling and effervescent buffalo. She was confined in a box stall, and he says that as he approached her he noticed that she was "mightily high-shouldered in front, and seemed to be wearing a buffalo robe on her back. He did not think nothing much about it. He casually remarked, 'So, bossy!' a couple of times, with the laudable purpose of opening an era of good feeling, sat down on his stool, adjusted the pail, and boldly struck out to extract the lactical fluid. "Along about now" as the ancient almanac writers would have put it, this absurd buffalo cow kicked. Indeed, that the reader may know the very worst without further delay, we will say that she kicked several times. The first or forward half of the first kick sent the pail against the manger, where it shut together like an accordion. The second or return half of the same kick caused Millikan to smite the side of the barn; and through not being very strong, he went and this leaving a large, irregular hole. Subsequent kicks broke the stall into pieces and demolished the manger, after which the intelligent beast jumped up and down, and legged till she had smashed down the plank floor and stood on the ground amid the general wreck. When in ten minutes, Millikan recovered consciousness, he hobbled to the house and remarked to the hired girl that "that there brindle heifer didn't seem to be used to having strangers milk her." When the girl explained the true state of affairs to him, he forgot his hurt, and rose up and walked to Running Water, where he engaged the best lawyer in town to begin suit for heavy damages.

The plea which Millikan will put forward is that Eames was guilty of criminal negligence in not warning him of the danger in attempting to milk a buffalo cow. Eames will set up the claim that any man with common sense would know better without being told. We fear that about all we can say is that much may be said on both sides. The question seems to be, should Millikan have recognized that she was a buffalo, and is the buffalo's prejudice against being milked generally known? We presume that if Eames had had, let us say, a giraffe confined in his barn, any court would have held that Millikan should have seen that it was not a domestic cow and have kept away from it. But a buffalo is not so greatly dissimilar to a common cow, and the court at Running Water may decide for the plaintiff. One point, however, seems clear: Eames will put in a counter claim for damages, based on the hole in the barn where Millikan went through. This claim ought not to be allowed.—Hager's Weekly.

Virginia Bureau of Information. It has been decided by the executive committee of the board of World's Fair managers for Virginia to establish a bureau of information in the Virginia building. The bureau is to be under the supervision and control of the board and its officers. All information, including maps, descriptive statements and literature in reference to the resources and capabilities of every part of the State will be distributed impartially by the bureau. The list of inquiries for information about investments in Virginia will be open to all dealers in Virginia, and no preference will be allowed to any person or firm in giving information or in sending prospective investors in the State.

DEATH IN A GEORGIA BLOW.

Several Towns Wrecked and Sixteen Persons Reported Killed.

COLUMBUS, GA.—A terrible wind storm swept across several counties, fifty miles north of Columbus, in the night, doing great damage and causing considerable loss of life. The storm came up from the northwest and struck Greenville, the county seat of Merriweather County, about 8:30 o'clock demolishing the business portion of the town and a great number of dwellings.

Forty-eight stores and dwellings are reported to have been blown down, and only three business houses in the whole town were left intact. Every house was damaged to a greater or less extent. A negro woman was killed.

Odessa, a small town near Greenville, is reported to have been completely swept away and six persons killed.

At Woodbury, ten miles east of Greenville, houses were blown down and trees uprooted, and about two miles from the town two negroes and one white child were killed. Many are reported to be seriously wounded. Heavy snow fell at Woodbury.

At Moleana, in Pike County, a church, an academy, a planing mill, two stores and several residences were blown down. A white woman, Mrs. Fell, and four negroes were killed.

A report from Piedmont, Pike County, a few miles from Moleana, says that out of two houses out of twenty remain standing. A woman named Hawkins was killed, and very few persons in the town escaped injury.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

A pedigree book of high-bred cats has just been issued in England.

A flexible coupling for water pipes to be submerged under water is a new invention.

The most graceful of domestic animals is the cat, while the most awkward bird is the duck.

A vegetable curiosity is owned by a resident of Weathead, Washington. It consists, it is claimed, of a network of large potatoes grown upon one another.

Family names seem to be scarce in Denmark. In the Copenhagen directory the name Hanson takes up thirty-four columns. Petersen thirty-two, Jensen thirty columns.

Among the estates left by persons who died in Vienna, Austria, and whose heirs have not been found, is one consisting of an opera glass. Another man's estate consists of a scarfpin.

British soldiers will wear seamless socks in the future, because the inventor, marching-officer, has discovered a style of seamless socks which the shod and made the soldiers' feet; the seamless socks do not.

Grifton, N. C., can probably lay claim to more divisions than any other small place in the country. The village is located, it is said, in two counties, three townships, two congressional districts, two senatorial districts and two judicial districts.

A Chicago shoe manufactory make 20,000 pairs of "dual man's shoes" a month. The soles are of pasteboard, covered with grained paper, the uppers are quilted satin and crocheted work and a ribbon tied in a bow knot holds the shoe to the foot.

Florida people are telling of an orange tree in Doctor Abernathy's grove at Altona which has borne during the past season 15,000 oranges. It is a seedling, twenty-five years old, some thirty feet high, and has received only the ordinary grove care and culture.

In the 227 years since "Don Quixote" was published 1324 editions have been printed, of which 528 were Spanish, 301 English, 179 French, 93 Italian, 84 Portuguese, 45 German, 18 Swedish, 9 Polish, 8 Danish, 6 Russian, 5 Greek, 3 Romanian, 4 Catalonian, 1 Basque and 1 Latin.

All-Powerful Music.

What is that millionaire family doing sitting there in that expensive opera box listening to the music. Why does the street car driver turn his head as he twists his brake in one of the most crowded spots of the Broadway thoroughfare? The strains of a hand organ have caught his ear. See that foreign-browed broker leaning against a Wall Street lamp post, regardless alike of trade and dinner, as he devours the strains of Ascher's "Alice," played by a poor street band.

Music is shamefully handled at the theatres, but what would the most stirring play seem without an orchestra? Music is the bait by which the wordling is caught in the church net of to-day. Music in the park is the poor man's holiday, vacation, summering. They must have music on race courses, fair grounds, beach, mountain side, Bowery alley and Murray Hill boulevard. The reception's gable would fall flat but for the sweet strains that envelop the place with an atmosphere of enchantment. Music mingles with the wine at the festive board. The campaign song, the bugle call, the battle march are the inspirations of their respective scenes. Concert and opera feed amusement to thousands of people night after night, week after week, month after month, year after year, with ever increasing power of attraction.

Music is a necessity in schools, in saloons, in kindergartens, in prisons, in churches, in the parlor, on the ranch, at the dance, in insane asylum, hospital, camp and club, on the quarantine ship, and in the cemetery. The workman, the merchant, thief, professor, rector, belle, farmer, miner, soldier, lover, teacher, baby, dotard and pugilist—all depend more or less upon the influence of music. The band, the player, the glee club, the orchestra, the "fiddler," are in demand upon every floor where people are assembled together.—New York Musical Courier.

New Orleans, La., believes she has shipped the largest cargo on record, 20,000 bales of cotton on board the British ship Samoa.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

To make ice by artificial means requires one ton of coal to produce from five to ten tons of ice.

A large sewing machine, weighing three and one-fourth tons, is in use in Leeds, England. It sews cotton belt-ings.

The average weight of the Chinese brain is said to be heavier than the average weight of the brain in any other race.

Hard coal loses eight per cent. in bulk per annum when exposed to the weather. Soft coal loses twelve per cent.

Experiments have shown that a pumpkin will lift two and one-half tons, provided the weight is placed so as to interfere with the growth and development of the vegetable.

The temperature of the Mediterranean at 200 fathoms is about fifty-six degrees, and no change is found in going to the bottom, which in places reaches a depth of 1500 fathoms.

M. Chappuis's proposed electric railway through the Simplon Pass is estimated to cost \$5,000,000, and it would greatly reduce the distance between Italy and Northern Europe.

The cost of the observatory which is now being built on the top of Mount Blanc, Switzerland, is estimated at \$60,000. Part of the building is to be made available for guides and tourists.

The central Sahara registers a mean of ninety-seven degrees in July. Central Australia boasts of ninety-four degrees in January, a mean which is attained in South Carolina and Inner Arabia in midsummer.

A British scientist recently stated that if a man weighing 140 pounds were placed under a hydraulic press and squeezed flat, the result would be 105 pounds of water and thirty-five pounds of dry residue.

A laboratory for the study, under strict scientific conditions, of snake poisons and cures for snake bites is to be established in Calcutta. It is to be founded by a native, and will be the only institution of its kind in the world.

An excellent method for waterproofing the surface of a wall is to cover it with a solution of soap. After twenty-four hours a coat of lime solution is applied. This process is repeated several times, and is claimed to make the wall perfectly water tight.

The researches of many observers, as reported upon by Dr. Buchan, show that the ocean currents cause the temperature of the west side of the Atlantic, at depths from 100 to 500 fathoms to be nearly ten degrees warmer than at the same depths on the east side.

M. Marcey, the well known investigator of animal movements by means of instantaneous photography and the zoetrope, has now succeeded in rendering the beating of a living heart visible to the eye. All the phases of the movement can be followed and properly examined by this new method. The heart employed in this experiment was that of a turtle.

Official statistics of the cholera epidemic in Germany last year, and up to its practical disappearance, show that the number of deaths from cholera was 8510. Nine-tenths practically of this number were in the city and State of Hamburg, where the total number was 7611—1.22 per cent. of the whole population. The statistics show that the cholera spread up the rivers from the center around Hamburg with diminishing virulence.

Pine beams will shrink in thickness from eighteen and three-quarter inches to eighteen and a quarter; spruce from eight and a half inches to eight and three-eighths; white pine from twelve