The Democrat.

BRONSON & CARR, Publishers.

MANCHESTER, - - IOWA.

Smokeless powder does not rob war of its cloud.

After all has been said, there are still certain links that join golf and shinny.

All the same old and new systems of wireless telegraphy can make current history.

For a man to marry forty women would indicate they were of the ready maid kind.

If the Emperor of China is still alive he must have found some excellent place of concealment.

A "practical" joker who tried to steal some eggs, was cut severely. Probably he will not hatch up another for some time.

A London soap maker is said to intend building a challenge yacht. His hopes, like his soaps, are convertible to bubbles.

Even in the case of a Vanderbilt a "family settlement" of $6,000,000 may be considered an exceedingly comfortable settlement.

When it comes to practically tripping up the public there should be no more a trust in bananas than in their pavement-strewn peel.

It depends altogether upon the view taken to assert that a man who makes the first move towards building a trust lays a corner-stone.

It seems to have become a settled belief in parts of this country that the way to whoop up a campaign is to take the hoops off of barrels.

A physician declares that one of the chief causes of baldness is intellectuality. Is this another mean jab at the sex which does not become bald?

John Ruskin, England's great philosopher, is said to prefer small pigs to babies. He has, however, never advised any man to make a hog of himself.

If these gifts to Dewey of swords and cups and silver services continue to accumulate, it will be in order to build a substantial safe into the new Washington house.

Mrs. Langtry's young husband has gone back to his ma. Perhaps he got hold of some of the sheets of those reminiscences before her friends succeeded in persuading her to destroy them.

If the mere kissing of a pretty girl is punished in Connecticut by fifteen days' imprisonment what would be the Connecticut idea of justice in the case of a man who pleads guilty to having forty-two wives?

There is a man in a neighboring city who advertised in the local papers for a wife. Thus far he has received 140 answers from women who are willing. Yet there is many a splendid young man who goes day after day and evening after evening, yearning and putting it off for fear he may be rejected.

A young man who was being initiated into an Eastern college fraternity has been drowned during the preliminary foolishness of the initiatory ceremonies. There are limits to all things, and the iron hand of the faculty of every college should descend in a hurry upon secret societies conducted upon principles which so sorely tempt a violent onslaught by the fool-killer.

Like a good many other men, Grant Allen, who died recently, had to do much uncongenial work in order that he might live. If he had been possessed of independent means it is practically certain that he never would have written a line of fiction. His temperament and his literary bent were scientific. Yet he found that scientific books yielded but small returns, while novels found a ready sale. Hence he wrote novels—and good ones—as pot-boilers, and put his heart into his biological treatises. And, after all, his serious work will outlive his fiction. Of all the Darwinians he has presented the doctrine of evolution in a guise most attractive to the general reader. "The Evolutionist at Large" will be read when "The Woman Who Did" is forgotten. The one represented his best thought; the other was the creature of temporal necessity.

The Nutmeg State's fate was marked by much the same disorder and rioting as that which doubled the horrors of the sinking of the Bourgogne. Boats were overloaded and then swamped by the addition of the weight of the steamer's men. There seemed to be no discipline whatever on board. It was a case of "save who can." Unfortunately there is no direct remedy to correct such a state of affairs, for the law cannot well intervene to punish a man for trying to save his own life, even though in so doing he imperils that of another. At the same time the taking of passengers upon a steamer involves a guarantee by the company that it will provide all the necessary human as well as mechanical safeguards against disaster. The officers and the crew of the boat thus assume a responsibility which should lead them to sacrifice their own chances in order to help their charges.

The futility of the last will and testament is illustrated once more by the Vanderbilt case. Cornelius Vanderbilt manifested his disapproval of his eldest son's marriage by cutting the boy off with a million and a half, his second son getting the bulk of the estate, and the brothers and sisters each a portion amounting to $7,500,000. The will of the father, however, is ignored, in one particular at least. The heir who gets some $50,000,000 puts young Cornelius on the same footing as the other children by giving him $6,000,000 ouright. Rich men cannot take any of their wealth with them when they go to another world. And they seem not to be able to regulate its disposition in this world. They conceive elaborate schemes which they fondly hope will endure and bind their children. But he is a good lawyer who can draw a contest-proof will. Even Samuel J. Tilden could not do it. And when the will is legally impeccable "voluntary agreements" like that of the Vanderbilt children undo the cunningest of wills. Indeed, the word "will" is, in modern times, a misnomer. The document is rather an expression of preference, a suggestion to the dying man's friends, a request, or, more modestly, a wish, to be respected or dishonored, according to the whim of the survivors in interest. Rich men might find it profitable, when thinking of death, to fix their minds on the fortunes of their own souls, and let their wealth be distributed according to the law.

The Philadelphia Medical Journal tells of the failure of an attempt made by several physicians in a certain city to secure an agreement to instruct the newspapers to omit mention of their names except by special permission in writing over signatures. Twenty-nine physicians were asked to sign and of these ten refused, while of those who signed many privately told their journalistic friends to ignore the request so far as they were concerned. The Medical Journal bewails the failure of the plan. Yet what else could be expected? Every one knows that while avowedly physicians are opposed to any kind of advertising, yet few fail to take advantage of opportunities for keeping their names before the public. It is certain, for instance, that the bulletins that are sent out giving the daily condition of a great man's health and signed by the physicians advertise their eminence in the profession. Physicians who have by slow and conscientious work built up as great a practice as they can attend to may refuse such opportunities. But the absence of any way to advertise balks many a young man, who may be in every way qualified, from letting the people know of his existence. Hanging out his shingle does not do it. If only the empirics advertise, it must be admitted that they gain success by it, and the profession should realize that the press is too great a lever to be left entirely in the hands of those who are often not deserving of success.

Recently the New York Evening Post advocated the formation of a "Bible trust," to stop the loss to publishers in that demoralized department of the book trade. The Publishers' Weekly scoffs at the idea, and then goes on to tell why the prospects for a book trust of any kind are uninviting. The abject failure of John Lovell's scheme and the thorny path of the school book trust have proved to the most ambitious promoters that any attempt to organize the whole publishing business would be folly. The school book trust controls the text books of less than ten houses. The houses are important ones, and their output constitutes the bulk of the educational trade, but the trust is now rivaled by two great competitors, while no less than 170 hostile firms keep up a never ending war against it. If this is all the success that can be obtained by a trust confined to one snug corner of the publishing business, it is apparent that an attempt to consolidate the general publishers must be a task before which even the nerve of the professional trust promoter has need to quail. As long as writers continue to increase and as long as printing materials are as cheap as they are now, the chances of a publishers' trust will be both dim and remote. The fact is one on which the reading public is to be congratulated, though it must be admitted that a trust to control and limit the output might not be an unmixed evil at a time when "most of the books are not worth the pulp they are made of."

SOCIETY KLEPTOMANIACS.

They Purloin Articles of Virtu from the Homes of Officials.

One of the leading jewelers of the capital was somewhat taken aback the other day, says a Washington paper, by receiving from the wife of a high official an order for half a dozen gold nails with a jewel in the head of each, and a dozen small gold chains. He inquired the uses to which the nails were to be put, when his patron said:

"You see, I have a number of very valuable objects of art, which, although they are very expensive, are very small, and easily handled. As the wife of an official of the Government, I am obliged to open my house during the season to the constituents of my husband and the Washington curiosity-seeking public in general. On my reception day, therefore, my house is crowded with all sorts of people, and last winter I suffered the loss of several of my most valuable treasures.

"I have long been trying to devise some plan by which I can keep my objects of art outside of my cabinets and yet not have them stolen, for that is the only word I can use in regard to the loss of my treasures. I have concluded that I must either nail down some of the bric-a-brac or chain it securely to the table, and hence I am going to try this remedy. That is why I want these nails and chains."

This woman's predicament is not an unusual one in Washington official circles. The kleptomaniacs who commit the most aggravated depredations are for the most part well-known leaders in society.

Last winter social circles in Washington were greatly bewildered and shocked by the doings of one of the best-known women in official circles. A number of hostesses began to miss valuable doilies from their dinner tables after they had given lunches or dinners, and finally several of them got together and compared notes, and suspicion fell upon one of the women who had been the guest at luncheons given by those gathered at the conference.

Finally, the wife of a prominent diplomat determined to stop the raid upon the doilies, and at the next luncheon she seated the suspected kleptomaniac next to her. When the doilies were brought on she watched her guest and discovered that the latter had laid her doily on the table, and, carelessly dropping her handkerchief over it, picked up both.

The hostess, in a most charming manner, turned to her guest and said: "Pardon me, my dear Mrs. ——, but I am afraid you have my most exquisite doily in your handkerchief. It is so fine I am afraid it will be crushed, and therefore call your attention to your inadvertence in taking it up with your handkerchief."

The guest was not in the least abashed, and, with a laugh, she shook out her handkerchief, and the doily fell back on the table, whereupon she exclaimed: "Why, dear me, so I have! How very careless of me!"

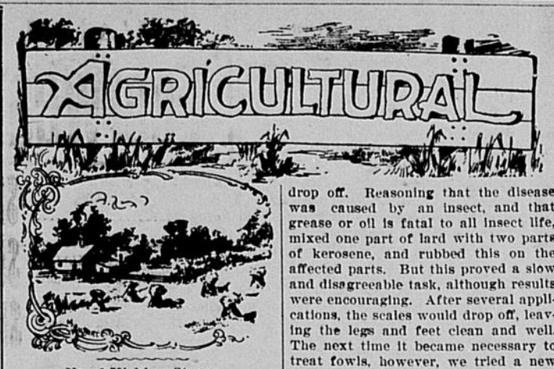
There were significant glances all around the table, but no more doilies were lost during that season.

The Real Thing: Captain of Football Team—That man Subbs is the best tackler on the team; we discovered him in Lonesomehurst only a week ago. Friend (astounded)—Why, how did he get his training? Captain—Catching trains.—The Freshman.

If a man is an old bachelor and hasn't a relative in the world, he always hunts up an excuse when he wants to go away. The bluffing the women give a boy baby in his cradle seems to leave a lasting impression upon him.

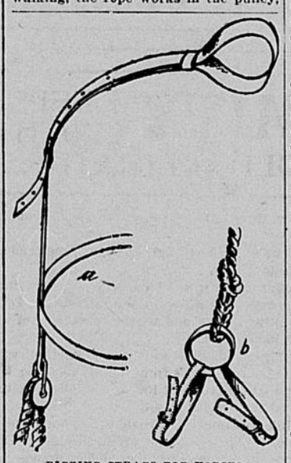
A good many men go to church out of respect to their wives, and expect to be saved for the same reason.

AGRICULTURAL



Novel Kicking Straps.

An excellent device to prevent a horse kicking when in the harness is shown in the illustration. A heavy strap is buckled around the lower part of the collar in front and passed between the front legs. About a foot back of this a pulley is attached and a light strap, a, is buckled around the girth to prevent it from falling and getting the ropes, straps, etc., entangled in the horse's legs. A strong rope is run in the pulley and extends back to the hind legs. Iron rings, b, are tied in the ends of the rope and one is placed directly in front of each hook. Two straps are then buckled through the ring and around the leg, one just above and the other just below the hock to prevent it from slipping up or down. It is readily seen that while walking, the rope works in the pulley,



KICKING STRAPS FOR HORSES.

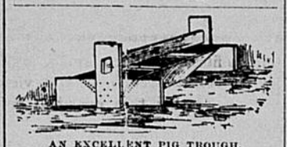
but if the horse attempts to kick with one foot, the other resting on the ground will hold it firm, or if an attempt is made to kick with both feet the result will be the same.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Double Your Wheat Crop.

The quantity of wheat annually produced in this country is apparently large, and we are said to supply the world, though, in fact, we export only about one-fourth, our home demand being great. A slight decrease in the yield per acre would leave us nothing to send abroad, and, but for our enormous corn crop, which provides a large supply of grain as a partial substitute for wheat, we would not have enough wheat for our own people. These facts are mentioned to show that the wheat crop will always be an important one with our farmers, and that with the same area in wheat the annual production could be much larger, and the average yield of wheat per acre is only thirteen bushels, which could be easily doubled by proper cultivation and the intelligent use of fertilizers.

A Pig Trough.

The illustration shows a kind of trough for feeding pigs which is very convenient, durable and easy to make. The end boards are long enough so that the pigs cannot turn the affair over, and owing to the upright board running lengthwise of the trough and dividing it into two parts, they are also prevented from getting into it and fouling their food. Strips four inches wide are nailed to the edges of the trough at requisite distances, separating the trough into proper spaces for each pig, and thus



AN EXCELLENT PIG TROUGH.

prevents crowding. In order to avoid fighting among the animals there should always be more spaces provided than there are pigs to feed.—Fred O. Sibley, in the Farmer.

Feeding Corn.

Corn should be fed with judgment. Old corn is better than new, and there is a loss in the crib while waiting for prices to go up, as corn dries some the older it gets. Corn that is smutty or moldy should not be put in the crib, as it is injurious to all kinds of stock, producing a disease styled by some as "stomach staggers." If smutty corn is placed in the crib with sound corn there is a possibility of the sound corn being affected. The same rule applies to corn fodder; use only that which is clean and free from blemish. When cattle refuse certain kinds of corn fodder the chances are that there is something wrong with it.

Selling Grain a Sacrifice.

Every farmer should endeavor to convert the grain into meat if possible, not only for the sake of the higher price to be obtained, but because meat is not as bulky as grain, and the expenses of marketing are less. When a farmer sells corn or any other grain there is nothing left behind, but when the grain is fed to stock much of its real value is retained on the farm in the manure. Fat takes less from the farm than protein, and the fatter an animal that is sold the smaller the loss of the soil elements, proportionately, and the larger the profit.

Rye for Pasturage.

Young rye is one of the most valuable crops after frost appears than can be grown on a farm containing stock, as it serves as pasturage and provides green food for quite a period after all other green crops are gone. It also gives the earliest green food in the spring. Rye is so easily and quickly obtained in the fall that there is no reason why a plot of it should not be seeded every fall where stock can be kept. Do not allow the animals on the rye when the ground is wet and soft, as they may do damage by trampling, but otherwise the rye will stand close grazing.

Removing Scales from Legs.

A few summers ago our fowls were troubled with scaly legs. In some instances the legs would become covered with scabs, which would eventually drop off. Reasoning that the disease was caused by an insect, and that grease or oil is fatal to all insect life, mixed one part of lard with two parts of kerosene, and rubbed this on the affected parts. But this proved a slow and disagreeable task, although results were encouraging. After several applications, the scales would drop off, leaving the legs and feet clean and well. The next time it became necessary to treat fowls, however, we tried a new plan that was easier and proved far more satisfactory. We filled an empty tin can about two-thirds full of water and then poured in two or three tablespoonfuls of kerosene. Then, holding the fowl firmly in the hands, its legs were dipped in the solution and held there for a moment or so, or until the mixture had time to penetrate beneath the scales. Two applications were all that was ever found necessary, and the worst cases were entirely cured.—I. L. Irwin, in Epitomist.

Building an Ice House.

Having observed several cheap ice-houses, the following plan seems the most satisfactory: Take poles or rails twelve or more feet in length, and build a pen some eight or more feet high, or even less. Then take rails two feet shorter and build pen inside of other. Fill space between pens with straw, chaff or other non-conductor. Place boards on ground for ice to rest on. Build on as dry a spot as you can, but avoid shady places. Use pine boards for roof. Since ventilation is needed the gable ends may be left open. Cheap lumber may be used instead of rails, and frequently an old outbuilding can be used for ice. Always use good ice for filling. Cut in square pieces, lay pieces flat, and fill crevices with pulverized ice. Leave a space of at least nine inches between ice and wall, to be filled with sawdust. Use plenty of sawdust on top of ice. The dimensions given can be made smaller. A cube of ice 8x8x8 feet contains approximately fifteen tons; 6x6x6 feet about one-half as much.—S. R. Tatman.

Setting Trees.

People have often made mistakes by buying from unreliable firms, but greater mistakes by not taking care of what they have bought. In setting trees, dig a hole twice as deep as you want tree in ground; fill in with good rich top soil one-half the depth and set the tree firmly; tramp down the roots well, cutting off all bruised roots and your tree will be pretty sure to live. Then you must cultivate your trees; give them such nourishment as they require. Who would plant corn and not look at it again until harvest time and expect a crop? Yet I find 90 per cent. of our farmers expect this same thing from trees, and then blame the nurseryman for which they are themselves to blame. The same is true of seeds. Don't buy and plant what you don't take care of, if you wish to succeed.—E. F. Sebring.

Roosting Arrangement.

Where a small flock of Leghorns is kept, it is important to provide a very warm roosting place for them if winter eggs are to be looked for. The cut shows

A BARREL ROOST.

a simple way to make such a warm roosting place. The barrels shut up close together in use, and the fowls enter and leave by the opening that is shown. The barrels can be removed as warm weather approaches, and the usual roosts substituted.—American Agriculturist.

Kansas Meat and Eggs.

Every balancing of her books emphasizes anew the fact that Kansas is pre-eminently a stock-producing region, and the compilation of assessors' returns just now completed by the State Board of Agriculture, showing the value of meat animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter and the poultry and eggs marketed in the year ending in March 1, make an exhibit that is very gratifying indeed. For animals slaughtered or sold for that purpose the total exceeds $50,500,000, which is $1,500,000, or 3 per cent., more than in the previous year. In 1896 the value was $36,592,057; in 1897, $37,781,678; in 1898, $49,123,517, the total for the four years' surplus being $174,031,049. This year's value is the largest ever reported, and an increase over the figures for 1896 of nearly $14,000,000. The value of poultry and eggs marketed during the year was $4,241,809, an increase of $96,136, or 2.26 per cent.; also the largest yearly amount ever returned for the State.

Planting of Apple Seeds.

Apple seeds may be planted either in the fall or spring, but it is less trouble to plant in the fall. Take the pomace from the cider mill when fresh, break up the cakes into as fine a condition as possible and sow at once. In sowing it is well to open a furrow with a hoe, holding it so as to make a furrow with a flat bottom, and two or three inches deep. Sprinkle the pomace about half an inch deep over the bottom and cover with an inch or two of soil, not manure. It is a good plan to rake the soil over the rows very early in the spring, so as to prevent baking of the soil; or the rows might be covered with some kind of a mulch, which is to be removed in the spring. The mulch may invite mice, however. A covering of swamp muck is the best thing that can be used, and it need not be removed in the spring.—W. J. Green in Farmers' Advocate.

To Keep Onions.

To keep onions over winter, put them in a dry location, such as a barn loft, and spread them on the floor or on shelves, in thin layers. If they should happen to freeze it will not damage them, provided they are not disturbed when frozen. They should be covered with sheets of paper in order to assist in preventing sudden thawing, but usually, if the layers of onions are not too thick, and the location is dry, they will keep without difficulty.

Sounds His Own Praises.

"My! What trumpet tones that singer has."

"Yes, and he's quite conceited enough to blow his own horn."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

SHORTER EUROPEAN MAIL TIME.

The Scheme Includes Railway to Louisburg, C. B., and a Fast Fleet.

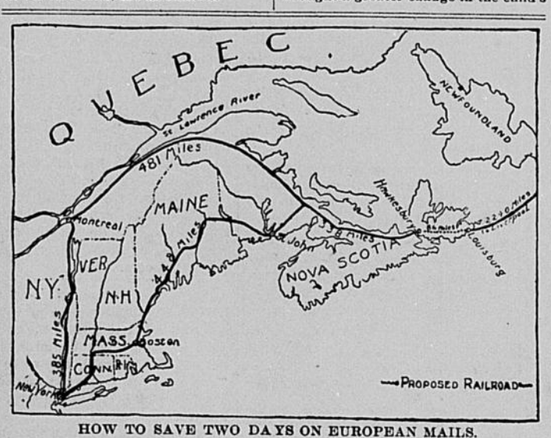
A scheme which postoffice and railway authorities have had under consideration for some years is said to have been revived, whereby a fast mail service is to be inaugurated between Louisburg, Boston and New York, shortening the time between Liverpool and New York City by about forty-eight hours.

In connection with the railroad project a fleet of ocean greyhounds, equaling in speed such ships as the Oceanic and the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, is to be put into service between the Nova Scotia ports and Liverpool. The distance from Louisburg to Liverpool is given as 2,240 miles. Steamers of the speed of the vessels mentioned could cover the route in about four days and the railroad run to New York via Montreal would be covered in about forty hours, while Boston could be reached in about twenty-four hours, or five days from Liverpool. If mail can be landed in Boston in five days from Liverpool it follows that passengers will be attracted by this route.

The best time from Liverpool to Boston now is seven days. Boston receives most of her European mail via New York and most of it is dispatched that way. The consequent rehandling of mail at New York causes a delay of twelve hours or more, considerable time to those anxious to hear from friends or shape their business by European advice.

The scheme referred to comprehends the building of eighty-six miles of railroad from Louisburg to Hawkesbury, N. S. From this point an excellent railroad connection may be made to United States points. Louisburg is the most easterly port in Nova Scotia, and is a well-sheltered harbor, which does not freeze in winter time.

The distances from Louisburg to New York via the Montreal route over the Canadian Pacific, as figured by an official of that road, are as follows:



HOW TO SAVE TWO DAYS ON EUROPEAN MAILS.

Louisburg to Hawkesbury, 86 miles.
Hawkesbury to St. John, 338 miles.
St. John to Montreal, 481 miles.
Montreal to New York, 385 miles.

Adding the ocean distance from Liverpool to Louisburg gives a total of 3,530 miles.

The distances via Boston to New York are reckoned as follows:

Louisburg to Hawkesbury, 86 miles.
Hawkesbury to St. John, 338 miles.
St. John to Boston, 448 miles.
Boston to New York, 233 miles.

Adding to this the ocean distance of 2,240 miles makes a total of 3,345 miles, and almost 200 miles in favor of the Boston route.

SMOKED WITH GEN. LUDLOW.

The General Furnished the Cigars and the Spaniard the Light.

"Good afternoon, Zheneral Ludlow," and the American military commander of the city of Havana lifted his eyes from a document he was examining and greeted his visitor. The latter was an oily, smooth-tongued, plausible Spaniard, by name——, well, I have forgotten it, if ever I did know it, but Campos will answer the purpose. Before the stranger sat down he extended his right hand to the General, saying at the same time, "I am so ple-e-ezed to see you, Zheneral."

While his well-lubricated tongue and right palm were thus engaged momentarily, Campos' left was playing its little part. The Spaniard had cunningly reached over Ludlow's desk with that member, and as he took his seat and it was withdrawn the officer's sharp, quick eye noted that a fifty-dollar bill was lying under his nose. He divined instantly the purpose of Campos' visit, and almost as quickly made up his mind what to do. Without appearing to have seen the currency smuggling so close in his inside pocket that it might have jumped into it, he assumed a pleasant, debonaire manner, and inquired: "Well, senor, what can I do for you to-day?"

Campos already was beginning to think he had won his game. His eyes sparkled, his face lit up with a happy smile, and in his most courteous tone he said:

"Vell, Zheneral, I vould like to get a franchise—a conzeshon, you know."

"Oh, yes," replied Ludlow, apparently entering into the spirit of the other, "and, of course, you expect to pay for it?"

"Yes, yes," returned Campos with an eagerness he could not conceal. "I'll pay for it—zomething," and then he fixed his eyes on the fifty-dollar bill lying on the desk. He looked at it so steadfastly that Ludlow scarcely could restrain a smile, and for fear of embarrassing the visitor he, too, looked down, and for the first time appeared to see it. Then, as though on the impulse of the moment, and in order to show Campos that he understood and was appreciative, he inquired:

"Do you smoke, senor?"

"Yes, Zheneral," Campos answered, thinking, too, that things were coming his way in great shape, "I smoke zome time."

"Have a cigar," and Ludlow handed over a box of fine Havanas. "These are said to be excellent."

Campos took one; so did Ludlow. The American then picked up the fifty, and as he rolled it idly into a long, thin taper, he remarked: "Senor, I like these, and like all kinds of money. Have a light."

Ludlow struck a match, and as Campos made ready to receive it the officer lit the fifty-dollar paper and handed it to his caller. "Yes, I like this paper money," continued the American, nonchalantly, "it makes such convenient cigar lighters."

Campos' hand trembled as he lit his Havana with his own money. His face was a picture of conflicting emotion and passion. It was gray and green and red and white. His lips twitched, and he was dumb when Ludlow, now excelling the Castilian at his own polished politeness, remarked: "I'll take a light if you are through with it," and then he, too, lit a cigar with the price of a suit of clothes.

"Now, what kind of a franchise do you want?" he went on, but Campos begged to be excused for the while, pleading an important engagement elsewhere. Probably it was with a near-by cistern where he could soak his head, but he did not say so. Campos had tried Spanish methods on an American officer—an officer who belongs to the engineer corps of the United States army, and is the personification of integrity.

PLAYING IN THE DIRT.

Mothers Too Often Deny Their Children This Pleasure.

The mother who would have her children healthy must not be afraid to have them occasionally dirty. While cleanliness is akin to godliness, there is a clean dirt that comes from contact with the sweet earth that is wholesome. Have the little ones bathed frequently, insist that they come to meals with immaculate hands and faces, but between meals have them so dressed that they are free to run and romp as they will.

An overcareful mother of an only child complained to a physician that her baby was pale and delicate. He asked to see the child, and the nurse brought in the 2-year-old from the veranda, where he had been seated on a rug, looking at a picture book. His dainty nainsook frock was spotless, as were also the pink kid boots and silk socks.

"What the child needs is wholesome dirt," was the physician's verdict. "Put a gingham frock and plain shoes on him and turn him loose on the lawn or in the fresh earth. If he is not rosy and happy in a month let me know."

At the expiration of the prescribed time the baby was transformed. The eyes that had been heavy were bright, the skin had acquired a healthful glow, the arms and legs were plump, and the languid, tired little patient had become a rollicking boy. The freedom, fresh air and clean dirt had in a month's time wrought a greater change in the child's system than all the skill of the medical fraternity could have effected.

Mothers who take their little schoolboys and girls away for vacation should let them romp at will out of doors, fish in the brook, ride on the hay, and wear strong shoes and clothing of which they need not be too careful. A child is much happier if untrammeled by too many "don'ts." And the mother is happier, too, if she need not say "don't" every hour in the day.—Harper's Bazar.

NOW A WIRELESS TELEPHONE.

Marconi's System Now Used to Communicate with Moving Trains.

Since Marconi announced the result of his experiments with wireless telegraphy other Italian scientists have been at work on similar lines. Prof. D'Azar, of Rome, has perfected a wireless telephone for use especially on railroad trains. The receiver and transmitter are connected by short wires with the front of the pilot and with the

SPEAKING TO MOVING TRAIN.

rear of the train, so that the engineer, with the receiver constantly at his ear, can hear the sound of a train approaching in either direction. In this way it is claimed that the danger of collisions is reduced to the minimum. At the same time the engineer is kept constantly in communication with the office of the train dispatcher. Experiments tried with the wireless telephones on half a dozen engines in the suburban service at Rome have shown, so the inventor claims, that the invention is entirely practicable.

Real Case of "She" in Africa.

Everybody has read Rider Haggard's famous novel "She." The main figure of the story certainly lived and died in the Transvaal, according to an English writer, and not so many years ago, either. "She" was really Majaji. Only a few years ago there was a native disturbance up north, beyond the Zoutpansberg range of mountains, in what was known as Majaji's country. Commandant Henning Pretorius, an old Boer, and a descendant of President Pretorius, after whom Pretoria was called, went up to quell the uprising. The natives have a legendary Queen Majaji, who has really been dead for years and years, but they pretend, and partially believe themselves, that she is still alive, and dwelling in a cave in the mountains, whence she reigns over them, and issues her behests through the medicine (mounti) men.

Pretorius demanded to see their queen. The induna (chief) of the natives replied: "Show us your government and we will show you Majaji."

The natives speak of her with awe, and refer to "the-wishes-of-She-in-a-cave."

Effectual.

"Puffins answered an advertisement in which somebody offered to sell him the secret for preventing trousers from getting fringes round the bottom."

"What did they tell him?"

"To wear knickerbockers."—Tit-Bits.

Mother Worship in Turkey.

The strongest sentiment of the Turk is his reverence for his mother. He always stands in her presence until invited to sit down, a compliment he pays to no one else.

If two brothers who don't speak to each other are members of the same same church, do they refer to each other as "Brother" in church fashion?

A boy's first lesson at school is that his slate and lead pencil are not good to eat.

POLITICS OF THE DAY

REAL EVIL OF TRUSTS.

A citizen of sufficient consideration to be consulted and quoted on the subject of trusts lately said that he considered them very objectionable and hurtful to the interests of the people, because they had to pay dividends on a capitalization more than twice as great as the value of their plants—that is, because they had to pay dividends on stock which was more than half water.

If this was the worst that could be said of the combines commonly called trusts, they would not be deserving of the popular condemnation under which they abide. The truth is that they do not have to pay dividends on their stock, however much it may be diluted. If they did have to the holders of much of their common stock would have cause to rejoice. A corporation cannot make dividends for any great length of time except out of its earnings. If it earns nothing it has nothing to divide. If it earns much it can make large dividends. Its earning power does not depend at all upon the amount of its capitalization. If it issues stock nine parts in ten water it cannot earn a dollar more than if its capitalization is only half the value of its plant.

But its power to declare dividends—to make earnings—depends very greatly on its power to fix prices arbitrarily. If it has that power it may declare large dividends on a very excessive capitalization. It is this power to control prices that is the objectionable thing about trusts. Divest them of this power and the public will not care a fig how much they water their stock.—Chicago Chronicle.

Next Year.

The issue of imperialism or anti-imperialism, of the Declaration of Independence against national freebooting, of American traditions as opposed to British policies, will be the supreme question of the hour next year. The assailants of the Constitution, the would-be destroyers of the Declaration, are welcome to whatever they can get out of their so-called victories in Ohio and elsewhere.

In Ohio they have elected a minority Governor, and whether Jones drew most heavily from the Democrats, as Mark Hanna confesses he did, or from the Republicans, the fact stands out conspicuously that Jones himself is an anti-expansionist.

In Maryland the most popular Republican of the State was up for re-election as Governor. He had given a very creditable administration, and all the power of the National Government was used to promote his interests. But his party made the fatal mistake of indorsing expansion and upholding McKinley's jungle war. This cooked his goose.

In Massachusetts the Republican platform was a riddle. Even the Springfield Republican indorsed it on the ground that it was a good anti-expansion document. So did Senator Hoar, whose views are too well known for comment. And yet merely because the declaration was not positive, because it was susceptible of two meanings, 25,000 Republicans voted against it. In Nebraska, where the issue was distinctly one of whether the Philippine bargain should have been ratified or not, and where the forces of nature really seemed to work in favor of the Republicans, there was a fusion landslide.

In Kentucky the Democrats would certainly have carried the State, perhaps they have carried it, but for the bolt led by former Gov. Brown. Gov. Bradley, the Republican leader of Kentucky, is an anti-expansionist, therefore the issues were principally local to that State.

As a mater of fact Nebraska alone of all the States passed judgment absolute upon the President's policy. It was formerly a Republican stronghold, no Democrat ever carried it as such for any State office, and McKinley was snowed under.

The next President will not only be a Democrat, but he will be elected because he believes in the fundamental principles of Democracy, in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and Thomas Jefferson.—New York News.

The Philippine Outrage.

When Admiral Dewey was in control of the situation in the Philippines he expressed the opinion that 5,000 men would be all we should need to maintain our authority in the islands. And if he had remained in authority we should have had no occasion for any more. The Filipinos admired and trusted him. They did whatever he told them to do. As long as he represented our Government in their eyes there was perfect peace. Now we are sending 50,000 men to the Philippines, and we do not know that that will be enough. By a simple computation we see that the administration considered it worth 45,000 men to exchange Dewey for Otis. The revenues of the Government are increasing so that, if it were not for the drain of the needless war in the Philippines, incurred through the incompetence of a "fussy old woman," we should be laying aside such a surplus every month as would enable us to resume the almost forgotten practice of paying off the national debt. That debt is nearly twice as large now as it was six years ago, but a few years of peace and prosperity would dispose of it.

Gen. Otis has cost us 45,000 men and about $15,000,000 a month. The naval estimates for the coming year are three times as large as they were a few years ago, and the increase is largely due to the demands of the Philippine service. We expect to keep a fleet of fifty vessels on blockading duty for an indefinite time, and that costs as much as it cost to maintain our whole navy not long ago.—New York Verdict.

Finances as "Firm as a Rock?"

John Hay, Secretary of State, in his letter to "My dear Dick," tells us some things that are generally believed to be quite the opposite even by a large section of his own party. After pitching into the Democrats, which, of course, was to be expected of him, he says: "With a sufficiency of money to meet the demands of a volume of business unprecedently vast and profitable." * * * "With our finances as firm as a rock," and so forth. At the same time that he must have been writing this letter, the bankers of New York were appealing to the Secretary of the Treasury to help them, money in that center being so scarce that the banks there had but a few dollars over and above what they are obliged to keep on hand, according to law. On or about the same day the Secretary of the Treasury did help them by advancing over $5,000,000, not due for some months.

About the same date the Bankers' Association met in Cleveland and put forth a platform urging Congress to amend or pass currency legislation, because our financial affairs were not "as firm as a rock," but were likely at any time to give us trouble.—Jeffersonian Democrat.

Results of Elections.

The elections have settled at least two important questions. William J. Bryan will be the Democratic candidate for President in 1900, and William McKinley will be renominated by the Republicans. Bryan's victory in his home State of Nebraska assures his position as the logical candidate of the Democracy, and McKinley's success in Ohio makes his renomination certain. Aside from those two important matters the elections showed that the Democrats have gained strength.

Discussing this matter William J. Bryan in an interview given out at Lincoln, Neb., says: "The elections have shown a decreasing confidence in the policy of the administration and a growing opposition to all for which the Republican party stands, which will result in the overthrow of that policy in 1900."

He declares the result in Ohio favorable to the national Democracy because of the decreased Republican plurality, and as yet refuses to admit defeat in Kentucky. The increased Democratic vote in Massachusetts he does not ascribe to militarism alone, as the platform there stood for all the Chicago issues. So far as Ohio is concerned the Republicans profess to be satisfied with their victory, but are busy explaining why Hanna was repudiated by his home city and county. As a matter of fact, it appears that Hanna stands higher in those localities where he is least known.

On the whole, Democrats can find much of encouragement in the results of the election. Wherever national questions were made prominent the people expressed dissatisfaction with the administration and this is an indication of a Democratic victory in the national election of 1900.—Chicago Democrat.

Chicago Platform Victory.

In Nebraska the Republicans said Bryan was the issue. Judge Reese, head of the Republican ticket, was a strong and popular man. There was no opposition to his nomination. The Republicans united on their strongest man to defeat Bryan. On the other hand, Holcomb, the head of the Fusion ticket, although a strong man, has many bitter opponents within his party. His nomination was only secured through the personal intervention of Mr. Bryan to prevent a split in the party. For these reasons Mr. Holcomb was weaker than his party. Nevertheless, he is selected by a majority of 15,000, a substantial Democratic gain. Mr. Bryan accepted the gage thrown down by the Republicans that Bryan was the issue, and the result of yesterday's voting shows the effect of the magnificent campaign he has made. He has attempted to trim on no Democratic issue. He has not pandered for a single vote. The victory in Nebraska is a clean, superb victory for W. J. Bryan and the Chicago platform, and a complete rout of the gold standard and imperialism.—Grand Rapids Democrat.

The Cable Outrage.

The longer the protection of the Cuban cable monopoly by the bayonets of United States troops continues and the more it is discussed the more outrageous it appears. It is infamous that the Western Union's trumpery claim to monopolize all telegraphic communication with the island—a claim based on alleged concession obtained through corrupt Spanish officials—should be upheld on Secretary Alger's infamous order and against American citizens desiring at their own sole risk to give the people of Cuba and of the United States a competing line, with securer service and lower charges.—New York Verdict.

Britons Cannot Bluff the Boers.

Military experts in England, as well as in Europe, are suggesting that the experience of Gen. White and other officers of the Indian army in facing Asiatics, who can be "bluffed" and "rushed," is a positive disadvantage in confronting an army of stolid Dutchmen, who spit on their hands and go into battle as placidly as they would hoe their corn. Is it not possible that the fact that our own officers have been occupied so largely with Indians may have prompted that rash rush at Santiago, which only a lucky fluke kept from being a disaster?—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

There's Deception Somewhere.

If the administration is deceiving the Sultan of Sulu, pretending that it will maintain his twin relics of barbarism while intending to destroy them, some people may find excuses for it. Possibly we shall know before long which it is trying to deceive, the people of the United States or the Sulu Sultan.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Man with the Noble Brow.

They were enthusiasts in physiognomy and phrenology and were traveling by train, says Tid-Bits. On the opposite seat was a man of commanding figure, massive brow and serious expression.

"What a fine countenance, Arthur! I wish I knew his occupation."

"Perhaps he's a lawyer, Edith."

"No, he's not a lawyer. There's too much benevolence in that face for a lawyer."

"He may be a banker."

"I am sure he is not. A man with such a heavenly expression couldn't content himself with money-getting. His aim in life is higher."

"Well, do you think he can be an editor?"

"An editor with such a face! An editor, saying hard things about everybody, ridiculing women's dresses and abusing mothers-in-law! An editor, cutting and slashing his enemies, flaying public men indiscriminately and mercilessly slaughtering his best friends for the sake of a paragraph. No, Arthur, he's a philanthropist. His face plainly indicates that he is all that is good, noble, pure and true."

At the next station an inquisitive old fellow took a seat beside the man with noble brow and asked him about his vocation. The couple opposite held their breath. The reply was this:

"I've a public house and butcher's shop. My wife looks after the bar and I do my own killin'."

All snakes feed on living animals and refuse to touch those which they have not killed for themselves. A snake is very choice about his meat.