

The Democrat.

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Osculation is apt to make a bit with a miss.

An ugly temper often gets a man into a pretty mess.

Every cloud has its silver lining. Even the State prison has its outside.

There is nothing equal to a good opera for sharpening the feminine appetite.

The love of the mosquito for a bare arm is surpassed only by the love of the fly for a bald head.

In the agriculture of the future irrigation will be a leading feature, and the comprehensive study of the subject should begin now.

The American circus continues to penetrate the wilds of Europe and create endless talk and sensation. Later on we may send them the tireless merry-go-round and the rollicking roller coaster.

Some rich American is buying up the big diamonds that were intended to be given to King Edward as coronation gifts. It has come to be a lucky day for John Bull when he doesn't get up against the Yankee terror in one form or another.

Half a century ago a thin stream of Niagara Falls was first led aside to turn a grist mill. To-day a larger stream, which diminishes seriously the amount of water that passes over the fall, furnishes almost half a million horse-power. Father Hoenepin was doubtless the first white man to see the mighty cataract. What Father Time will yet behold there passes all computation.

Speaking of the summer and winter fashions wealthy people make to various "resorts" here and abroad, a shrewd observer of city life remarks that "the finer the house, the less the loss it is occupied." In so far as that is true, it is to be regretted. At every season, in some favored region, nature spreads a falser floor than ever architect devised; but we may leave nature behind us when we set out to find a better place than home.

Whatever benefits come from the possession of millions, privacy, which is after all one of the most desirable possessions, is almost completely denied to the millionaire. It may readily be argued that the great financiers who had the bad luck to return from Europe by the same steamer would have given some of their surplus millions for the privilege of traveling quietly, free from prying curiosity. No really practical means of redress has been suggested. To travel incognito would appear an unwarranted assumption of the habits of royalty, but it is conceivable that the very wealthy may yet be driven to such a shift.

At the beginning of the new fiscal year the pneumatic tube which has been employed in the postal service of New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Boston went out of operation, and the mail-wagon has taken their place. This looks like a step backward. It is probably only a temporary inconvenience, but seems to have refused to continue its appropriation solely on account of its unwillingness to foster a private monopoly. Doubtless a pneumatic tube service built and owned by the government will yet be established and maintained in all the cities, although several ingenious rival contrivances for doing the same work deserve consideration before a final decision is made.

The busy bee at best gets a day off about as seldom as the country boy in his hay-time, but the modern planter has contrived to make her even more industrious than she is when left to herself. The orchards of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys blossom some months before the southern sage-brush. The bees are kept busy, carets his bees about from place to place as the seasons advance, and thus by keeping them busy 9 months of the year, gets 3 crops of honey. The difficulty of moving bees during their active season is overcome by traveling at night. As the bees help to pollinate the flowers and thus produce superior fruit, the owners of the orchards regard them with favor. In results the plan is even better than that of the enterprising farmer who crossed his bees with fireflies so that they could work nights.

The Englishman who dares to be a bigamist fares much better when he has a seat in the House of Lords than when he is a commoner. Earl Russell was tried by a jury of his peers and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment as a first-class misdemeanant. That kind of an offender does not get in English prisons either first-class food or lodging. But if a judge instead of the House of Lords had tried him he would have had a severer sentence. Earl Russell pleaded guilty. His counsel explained that the Earl and the woman with whom he contracted the bigamous alliance had acted on the best legal advice obtainable in Nevada, where he got his divorce, and did not know they were doing wrong. It was the nature of the case that the question of the validity in England of a Nevada divorce would be raised. The actual portion of the 42,335 inhabitants of that sovereign State was waiting impatiently to learn whether the decrees of its courts were to be treated as a nullity by the insolent aristocracy of Britain. Had this done there would have been a casus belli between Nevada and Great Britain, but the Earl would not raise the question. A child-like man got out of his scrape by buying off his lawyers with \$500. Perhaps if Earl Russell had been more liberal with his English wife he would not have had to go to jail.

A rich farmer who died recently in Erie, Pennsylvania, provided in his will for the education and maintenance of a library at a certain remote from any village. The building which will shelter it is designed to serve many other intellectual and social uses. It will contain a kitchen, reception-room and a hall that may be utilized for lectures, entertainments and religious gatherings. This action is hailed by the Independent as indicating the growth of a belief that wealth which has been accumulated in the country should be used for the benefit of the country. Our grandfathers felt this more strongly, perhaps, than we do. Our fathers did, too. Rich farmers—and poor farmers, too—were manifold in establishing the older colleges. When they could not give money they gave labor, rearing, doubt-

AHEAD OF COLUMBUS.

BUDDHISTS VISITED THIS CONTINENT IN FIFTH CENTURY.

Professor Fryer, of the University of California, is the author of the "The Evidence in Document for This-land Record Still Preserved in China."

Prof. Fryer of the University of California brings to light new evidence tending to prove that Buddhist priests discovered America 1,000 years before the sailing of Columbus. The evidence is both documentary and substantial, says Harper's Monthly.

Of the evidence of early Chinese documents, Prof. Fryer says:

"The narrative states that there was a Buddhist priest named Hui Shen, originally a native of Cabul, who, in the year 499 A. D., during the reign of the Emperor Yang Yuan, came from the country of Fung to Kingchow, the capital of the dynasty of Tsi, situated on the River Yang-tse. The country being in a state of revolution, it was not till the year 502 that he had an opportunity of going to the court of the Emperor Wu Ti, of the new Liang dynasty. He gave presents to the Emperor of curious articles brought from Fung, among which was a material like silk, but the threads of which could support a great weight without breaking. This was evidently the fiber of the Mexican agave. He also presented a mirror of a foot in diameter, possessing wonderful properties, and resembling those in use in Mexico and other localities in America at that time. The Emperor treated him as an envoy from Fung, and deputed one of the four principal feudal lords, named Yu Kie, to interrogate him regarding the country, and to take down his story in writing. This was accordingly done, and he was rewarded accordingly. He was not, however, permitted to return to his native land, but was detained here and there a typographical error which can be easily explained.

Among other things, Hui Shen said that the people of Fung were formerly in ignorance of the deities of Buddha, but during the reign of the Chinese Emperor Ta Ming, of the Sung dynasty, or A. D. 458, there were five monks, or Buddhist monks from Gaul, who traveled there and promulgated the knowledge of the doctrines, books and images of Buddhism. Their labors were successful, so that they ordained monks from among the natives, and thus the customs and manners of the people were soon reformed. He speaks of the journey through the Aleutian Islands and Alaska, with the length of the route and a description of the inhabitants. He described the country of Fung as 20,000, or 6,500 miles, to the east of Kamshatka, and also due east from China. It grows great numbers of Fung trees, which, when they first appear above ground, are like bamboo shoots, and the people eat them. Threads are spun from the skin of the plant, which are woven into cloth from which clothing is made, or made into embroidery. They also use the fibrous material of the Fung for making paper. There are many other features seen to point unmistakably to the Mexican agave. Red pearls are mentioned, which agree in description with the fruit of the prickly pear, while grapes are represented as plentiful. There is plenty of copper, but no iron; and no money value is put on gold or silver. Their markets are free and there are no fixed prices.

"The manners and customs of the people, their forms of government, their marriage and funeral ceremonies, their food and clothing, the method of constructing their houses, the absence of soldiers and military weapons, cities and fortresses, are all particularly noted, and agree with what is found in no country bordering on the Pacific, except on the continent of America in general, and in Mexico in particular. To suppose that Hui Shen could have invented all these statements, and that his story can be satisfactorily explained on any other theory than that he had actually made the journey which he so truthfully and soberly describes is, to say the least of it, absurd."

LIFE OF THE PHILIPPINE GIRL.
She Arises Early to Attend to Religious and Household Duties.

The life lived by the Filipinos is not an intricate life, says Ramon Reyes Lala in the Ledger Monthly, nor is Philippine etiquette the highly involved system that is found in the old and artificial society of western lands. I do not know that I can better describe it than by following a society young lady of Manila through the ordinary events of one day's existence. It may be said that American women to know how their sisters beyond the seas pass their lives.

The day of the fair Filipino is a long one. With her there is no lazy rising to a breakfast table and toast. She is usually up with the sun, not later than 6, and, if very religious, as early as 4, and she may attend early Mass. Breakfast is set early, about 6 o'clock. Then come the morning duties of the household, sewing, washing, cooking, or any other work that may be done. The young lady is not expected to spend her day in idleness. The midday meal is taken at 12 o'clock, in order that the warmest hours of the day may be the hours of rest. About two hours are thus spent in the enjoyment of the siesta, when our lady fair arises, refreshed and ready for the later pleasures of the day.

At 4 o'clock the "afternoon tea" is served. This is a light repast, usually consisting of chocolate, with rice and cakes, or other simple viands. Then, at the hour of 5:30 or 6 o'clock, the carriage is brought out and the daily ride taken to the Luneta, the beautiful park on the bay south of the city. Here the military bands discharge sweet music every evening, and the beauty and fashion of Manila meet and enjoy the evening air and melodious strains. Returning from the drive about 7 o'clock, the evening meal, or supper, comes next in order, after which our belle of Manila is free for any mode of spending the evening hours that may appeal to her; perhaps a friendly visit, a trip to the theater or opera, or an "at home" to receive callers. Early as she arose bedtime often comes late, and no hours more than nature demands are spent in the enjoyment of slumber. Going to rest, however, is different there and here. Ladies, even of the highest social rank, do not sleep in a bedstead, but prefer the floor, lying on a petate, or mat, which is provided with a long bolster or pillow, and covered with the conventional mosquito netting.

TOO MUCH FAULTY ENGLISH.
People Have Grown Careless in Their Rhetoric—Some Familiar Errors.

The books of rhetoric used to tell us that the great qualities of style were perspicuity, energy and elegance, and that as a means toward these and for other reasons it was important to be concise, to

WINNER OF \$40,000 OKLAHOMA HOMESTEAD.

THE OMNIGRAPH.

An Instrument Which Simplifies Instruction in Telegraphy.

An instrument which is designed to simplify instruction in telegraphy, and to impart in a comparatively short time a complete knowledge of the Morse alphabet, has recently been introduced by a company in New York city. Patents have been applied for. The Omnigraph, as the instrument is called, consists of a baseboard on which are secured an ordinary key and a sounder, between which a disk is mounted, formed of its periphery with teeth. A spring contact adjacent to the wheel engages the peripheral teeth of the disk. Although irregular, the arrangement of the teeth is arbitrary. For the disk to be rotated by means of a small crank-shaft geared with the disk-shaft, the spring contact is forced outwardly by the teeth, and thus makes and breaks the circuit. The experienced telegraph operator detecting these makes and breaks at the sounder recognizes them as the dots and dashes of the Morse alphabet. A close inspection of the disk would reveal to him that the teeth are so arranged as to spell the sentence, "John quickly extemporized five telegrams." If the disk be rotated forwardly, this sentence, thus oddly worded to include every letter in the alphabet, is ticked off at the sounder; if rotated in the opposite direction, the sentence will be telegraphed backward.

The disk is completely under the control of the student. It can be rotated as slowly as desired; or it can be so rapidly turned that the curious sentence will be received at the sounder with a speed that would open the eyes of a good operator. Moreover, the message on the disk is transmitted with a distinctness and faultlessness which the most perfect operator can never hope to attain. At first blush it might seem that the student simply learns one sentence forward and backward, and that the instrument is a good teacher only within very narrow limits. But this disk can be partially rotated forward and backward any number of times, in any place, so that the letter to be transmitted cannot possibly be anticipated. Thus the student learns how to receive a cipher message, the meaning of which he cannot know.

When sufficient proficiency has been obtained in receiving messages from the sounder, the student can learn to transmit messages in the regular method by means of the key which forms part of the apparatus.

WORTH NEARLY A BILLION.
For Ten Years John D. Rockefeller's Income Has Been \$30,000,000 a Year.

The statement has been published in New York upon the authority of a Wall street banker, who has close business relationship with the Standard Oil Company, that John D. Rockefeller's wealth is now nearly \$1,000,000,000. The following table of the oil king's holdings is given:

Standard Oil stock, \$300,000,000; United States steel stock, \$75,000,000; Amalgamated Copper, \$50,000,000; American Sugar, \$20,000,000; gas com-

pany, \$10,000,000; other securities, \$150,000,000. Total, \$1,000,000,000.

Mr. Rockefeller is quoted as saying: "I don't think any man will deny that Mr. Rockefeller has made an average of \$30,000,000 a year for ten years. The reinvestment of this sum alone, supposing he had no principal, at 5 per cent compound interest, would mean the addition of more than \$400,000,000 to his riches."

"His Standard Oil holdings in three or four years have doubled in market value; his railway and other securities have advanced tremendously, and in the past three years his wealth has increased to a sum which would astonish the American people if the actual figures were laid before them."

HOW TO SECURE HAPPINESS.
Author of "Heavenly Twin" Expresses Her Opinion.

To an audience assembled in St. George's Hall, Miss Sarah Grand, who quite recently addressed herself to the alluring subject of "mero man," discoursed upon the above theme, which furnished her with not a few opportunities for satirical but on the whole good-humored comment on human and social follies and foibles.

Mrs. Grand is a fluent and voluble lecturer, whose rapidly expressed utterance would paralyze the efforts of the most expert stenographer, but, in the main, her monograph resolved itself into an optimistic reply to Mr. Mallock's time-worn conundrum, "Is life worth living?" At the same time her observation of things and people does not always lead her into roseate dreams of happiness. Thus, on the subject of men's kindness—as distinct from women's—she lays it down that "it is more often the expression of their own satisfaction than the outcome of a desire to please." On the other hand, she concludes that men understand the nature of happiness far better than women.

There is nothing new or startling in the proposition that "there is joy to be found in congenial work, just as in congenial play," but Mrs. Grand's sly remark that people derive solace from the disagreeable business of getting up early on a cold morning from the prospect of superiority they can assume for the rest of the day is not without humor. The highest forms of happiness, she declares, are easily attained. "The simple hospitality of Sarah Grand, who pointed out a friend asked him how he had enjoyed himself. "Oh," said Mr. Tappen, "we had a very lively time. We were out five days and Stillman spoke to me twice."—New York Times.

A Superabundance of Intellect.
"Has your country any really great thinkers?" asked the tourist skeptically.

"Too many of 'em," answered the Kansas agriculturist. "Every once in a while we run across a man that's mulling around as a farm hand, but who doesn't want to do a thing but think."—Washington Star.

We don't know what is meant by artistic temperament unless it means that the girl having it picks out a switch that matches her hair.

When a woman hears of another woman's age, she involuntarily does a job of straddling, with her own age as the figure.

A handful of common sense is worth a bushel of the other kind.

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