

Russia is the smoothest citizen in all Europe.

Johnny Bull has helped himself to another chunk of dark meat.

Only one more year to the appearance of the platform rafter. He is a four-year political locust.

Now that the smallpox germ has been discovered, steps should be taken to vaccinate him at once.

Now that union labor has discovered that the injunction is a two-edged sword we may look for some merry combats.

Dr. Barrows says that the way to cure criminals is to exterminate their evil tendencies. In many cases this would not leave much of the criminal.

Mr. Carnegie ought to offer to provide a nice line of self-supporting insane asylums for poor old millionaires who are driven crazy by people who want something for nothing.

In nearly every case of nepotism in public office it will be noticed that the son-in-law comes in and sits with the family when the public pie is cut. He should never be overlooked.

A man worth millions leaves his all to his many nephews and nieces, with the injunction to marry. If he had been married himself he probably would have had no millions to leave. There seems to be a fine chance for an argument here.

Mr. Watt still maintains that Shakespeare was no master of modern English. Any seventeenth century poet who could not write twentieth century English must have been of a very ordinary quality. Mr. Watt, we presume, writes thirteenth century English.

A woman has obtained a divorce because her husband insisted on her sitting late at night and studying. It is hard to please women. Most of them are dissatisfied because their husbands want them to go to bed early and pay no attention to the time the head of the household comes in.

Now that a Chicago pedant has discovered that the head of Aesop was a cheap punster, a murderer of the king's English, and as poor as a speller as some of the university students of the present day, perhaps the followers of Ignatius Donnelly will quit trying to prove that Lord Bacon wrote those stupid, whimsical productions commonly known as the plays of Shakespeare.

At any rate, it is not our business. We are not a nation of Quixotes, but a nation of people engaged with much success in minding their own business. It is quite certain our bits of exports of cotton goods or kerosene, or whatever, is not an object for which American public opinion would justify our fighting to trade Russia from Manchuria. It is live and let live. It would justify us in joining any alliance to that end, in defiance of the sound tradition that is as old as our nation. And it is not even certain, nor even likely, that our trade, such as it is, is in a stake. It seems as if it might perfectly be done by a frank and manly diplomacy which we have of late been exhibiting.

Despite deceptive appearances Uncle Sam is really a modest sort of a fellow who doesn't believe that he has nothing to learn from the rest of the world. He is prepared to admit with out humiliation that some things are properly done better in London, Paris and Berlin than in the United States. But there is this to be said to the credit of American manufacturers. As soon as they discover that an article superior to home manufacture is produced abroad they at once secure a model of the foreign product and begin to improve their own goods. They do not wait for years until an expedition is held somewhere in the "world to get a copy of the finer and more original product.

Judge Lindsey, of Denver: "Every man found guilty in my court of cruelty to animals must go to jail; there will be no other sentence in this court so long as I sit on the bench. The sooner this is understood the better it will be for the community." Jail sentence is severe, but not too severe for the man who maltreats the brute, over which he is master. Let him meditate in the seclusion of a cell the responsibilities of a living soul that since his death it has come to be a part of the beast of the field and the creature of the air. What a friend of man the horse has been! That noble animal was companion and assistant to men when history began its records. He has plowed man's fields, borne his burdens and carried all the "necessaries of civilization would have come upon the earth but for the horse. Often abused, frequently neglected, he is always man's willing slave. What right have you to mistreat him, even though you hold a paper you call a bill of sale, and you never know race more than you can ever know. And the dog. He was the staunch helper of the stone age man. In all periods of history he has been a trust-worthy friend, constant comrade, devoted guardian. His name is in itself a synonym of loyalty. To all of these man is a god. Still, it is his duty to whom they look in dumb and humble worship, reward their trust and fidelity by lack of love and justice, by harsh and cruel treatment? For shame! As God rules man, gently and with compassion, so let man rule beast and bird.

"Here goes another fool," shouted a man as he jumped from the deck of a New York ferryboat. By the time his body was recovered he was dead, and his body was carried unrecognized to the morgue. It was a most depressing fact that there were between 8,000 and 9,000 of such "fools" last year, a marked increase upon any previous twelve months. This prevalence of suicide indicates that a grave national danger confronts us. In the multiplication of our wants, in the increase of what we call the "necessaries" of life, we are losing sight of the value of life itself. Men measure themselves by what they own, and a sudden loss of property therefore brings the value of existence down to zero. Others are overwhelmed by the vastness and strenuous life of a great city, and a sense of their own insignificance and helplessness drives them to self-destruction. In all these cases, the underlying cause is a lack of self-control. A man or woman becomes discouraged and says: "Nobody will love me, therefore I amount to nothing and might better be out of the world." It is peculiarly tragic that there should be so many suicides at the present time, when all great world-movements have become so rapid and interesting. Almost every morning we read a new triumph of science. Travel has become safe and comfortable in nearly every country. Inventions and discoveries such as the past never dreamed of are to-day common-place facts. This is an age when the lines of Wordsworth should be true: "Tis bliss to be alive and conscious of the young." The terrible fact that over 8,000 a year think otherwise shows that there must be something out of gear in our social machinery.

No provision of nature is wiser or more beneficent than that whereby the terrors of youth grow neutral or amusing in the retrospect. The stone-bruise, the bee-sting and the green-apple colic are still tender memories—but not in the original sense. "Speaking day" in school was one of the hardest of boyhood's crosses. It caused our hearts to thump and our knees to knock together, yet the thought of dropping it from the calendar would cause a pang to many a gray-haired boy whose son never knew the fervor with which his father used to dread the approaching day. The solemn and time-honored occasion seems to be in danger. Letters of protest have appeared in the newspapers. The men who write the letters doubtless had to take their turn as boys at declamation, and if they were real boys, they would cordially wish their children hate it to-day. But—what is a very large but—they know now what the declamations were for, and what they did. They see, if they are men in any sense leaders of their fellows, how useful is the ability to get upon one's feet and say what one has to say simply and clearly. They know, too, that the accomplishment is rare. Speeches in town meetings, at alumni dinners, in fact, on social and public occasions of all kinds—how dull most of them are, and how ineffective! Yet the men who make these speeches are cordially to be congratulated because they do not know how to stop, may be able and interesting even ray and entertaining, talkers when off the platform and at their ease. "Stage fright" is all that ails them. They have never been trained to speak in public. The possession of the gift when the need is most urgent, and self-consciousness takes its place. It is just this training which speaking day helped to supply. The mimic "Spartacus" learned more than Roman history when he learned to declaim along with the "Patriot Henry" became familiar with more than American history when he addressed his schoolmates as the House of Burgesses. "Beautiful Snow," "Hengen on the Rhine," "Curfew," and all that lovely collection may be of any other use to spare them from his memory? Will any permit such a good old custom as speaking day to pass unopposed and unwept? We hope not.

Why women get lower wages than men. There are psychological reasons for the lower wages of women. In the world of outdoor labor woman is, comparatively speaking, still a novice, having but recently joined the ranks of the bread winners. Women do not take kindly to learning a trade thoroughly before seeking employment. Lacking business judgment, they hesitate to invest either the time or the money required to master details. In fact, most women undertake a trade or a profession with no idea of making until something better turns up. This "something better" for the majority of women is marriage. Again, woman's nervous temperament stands in the way of her success as a collaborator with or a competitor of man. To do prostrate work steadily day in and day out requires stronger nerves than the average woman is favored with. Another reason

Needs of popular education in America. Education will have to be reorganized. It is a great task upon their patience. They are, as a rule, in too great a hurry to begin making money, and therefore prefer to make a little quickly rather than wait for the larger results which come more slowly. Still another reason for the lower wages of women is that most of them are not compelled as the men are to go to outdoor work, and not only do they not go to work, but they have a considerable portion of their earnings for they look upon their weekly wages as spending money and are therefore quite free with it. Then their presence in the shop or the factory calls for better accommodations, which necessarily increases the expense of conducting a business. Still we are of the opinion that it will not be long before women will become thoroughly acclimated in the world of outdoor work, and should hold the same higher wages for themselves but also by their command make the struggle for existence a little less fierce.

The right kind of person to marry. Love matches, rather than marriages of convenience, are the rule in the Land of Freedom. Men seek women because they feel a sincere affection for them; women marry men for the all-sufficing reason that life seems to them better and richer if a man is lived together. And undoubtedly love is the requisite to a happy marriage. Nevertheless, the ancients were not without reason when they painted Cupid with a bandage around his eyes. Love matches are sometimes less happy than others where the affection between man and wife has for its foundation calm esteem and cordial respect. The best way is to be wise in time and not to allow the heart to plunge in too deeply until the head is approved. Mercenary marriages are a mistake. When money is the sole attraction the person who is bought and sold has no right to complain later.

More are going to church. More thoughtful, thoughtful men are going to church in New York to-day than there were ten years ago. On the other hand, proportionately fewer women are attending church than formerly. That is especially so among women of leisure and the so-called society women, for whom the Sabbath is a day of social engagements. It is also true largely of the wage-earning woman who not unreasonably desires the Sabbath for recreation. In the aggregate, of course, there are more women in our churches than men. This should not be for the latter need the church's message more than the former. Orchestras, and an imposing ritual, have no place in the church of the future. They attract the curious and irreligious and distract the right-minded. The message of the church, and a creed is weak which has to resort to them to attract the public to church.

White House in a class by itself. One moonlight night in June, 1902, while strolling through the grounds with Charles F. McKim, one of the members of the park commission, I was struck by the grandeur of the architecture. That architecture to John Quincy Adams' taste in landscape architecture. That architecture of people arrayed in joyous costumes befitting the semi-royal had come from the hot city to rest under the trees and listen to the Saturday concert of the Marine Band. The music, clads in white duck, were located in a little depression, so that the sound of the music rolled up the slopes to the White House.

Machine-made applause is used in a theater. Stage lightning, stage thunder, the stage moon, and the stage snowstorm have been put in the background by the invention of a stage applause machine invented by Act Henry Miller. Mr. Miller was playing at the Richard Harding Davis "Taming of Shrew" at St. Louis when he first tried his power. In the last act, which takes place in the greenroom of the Imperial Theater, London, the applause of an imaginary audience is heard. The author supposed that a crowd of spectators, 50 cents per night would be used for this purpose, but Mr. Miller put his machine at work. The result couldn't have done half as well. By turns the hand-clapping was deafening, and then it would subside. The shouting of doors would stop the sound, and many curious effects were introduced. Mr. Miller's invention is a wonder. It consists of a large solid wooden drum, studded with pins about two inches long. When the drum revolves the pins strike it, producing a noise of hand-clapping.

Surgery Seven Hundred Years Ago. Surgical operations were performed on the human skull in America 200 years before the coming of Columbus, says the Toledo Blade. The work was done in those early days with the aid of shells and flint hatchets. Many skulls have been discovered in Peru which illustrate the methods of these early surgeons. From the appearance of the skull it is also evident that a considerable proportion of those operated upon lived afterward. The trephining was probably performed to save the lives of those who had received a serious wound from a club or a stone. Considering that the surgeons of those early days worked with nothing more effective than sharp shells or flint knives, the work is exceedingly creditable. Human skulls also have been found in Europe, dating back to prehistoric times. In the South Sea Islands the operation was often performed with the same primitive implements. The local surgeons not only trephined in the case of fractures, but as a cure for epilepsy and certain forms of insanity. Trephining is also performed in this primitive way even as a cure for headache.

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

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The statue is the statue heretofore reproduced, which was recently unveiled in the north transept of Westminster Abbey. The statue is of the finest Carrara marble and shows the dead statesman as a D. C. L. of Oxford. The royal family of England always feared more than it admired Gladstone, but since his death it has come to a realization of the fact that he was a great man, after all, and the placing of the statue so prominently in the place reserved for the elect is a recognition that he possessed qualities which will cause his fame to grow greater as the years go by.

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NINETY-TWO YEARS OLD AND STILL WORKING.

At 92 years of age, William Matthews of Bloomington, Ill., wears a cigar and peanut stand in the corridors of the court house.

Every morning he comes down to his place of business long before the judges, the bailiffs or the lawyers are stirring, and by the time they commence to drift in the old man behind the peanut stand is ready to sell them.

William Matthews chewing gum to ruminates on until the noon intermission, and then as they come back from lunch he supplies them with cigars to puff on as they stand about the lobby talking politics. He is busy all day long, and at night walks home as nimbly as a boy in his teens.

Mr. Matthews was born June 14, 1810, in Vermont. In 1835 he came to Illinois at the solicitation of his brother, who had previously gone to Tazewell county. He first visited Clarksville, Desiring of the future of Clarksville, Mr. Matthews trudged on foot across the open prairie to Bloomington, and secured employment in a woolen mill. In 1837 he was elected constable and served six years.

"I tell you those were great days," said Mr. Matthews, in speaking of his experiences. As a constable I had to make long trips over the hilly prairies of McLean county. No roads, seldom any paths, no fences, and the inhabitants exceedingly few and far between. When riding across the prairie I would keep my direction by picking out some object in front of me and riding straight for it, and then taking some object ahead of that, and so keeping straight on my course. Many a night I would have to camp out on the prairie or in a woods bordering some little stream.

BUOY IS LIGHTED BY THE ACTION OF THE WAVES.

An inventor in Germany has proposed a novel method of supplying electricity to light a harbor buoy at night. He dispenses with a cable from a power-house on land and generates his own current by the rocking of the buoy. The audible signals given by bell buoys in a fog are produced in the same manner. The motion of the waves tilts the apparatus first in one direction

MARVELS OF CORN CULTURE.

Corn breeding is a modification of live stock breeding and follows the same general laws and principles. It is the application of principles of plant and animal breeding to the corn plant. The percentage of sugar in the sugar beet has been increased from 10 per cent to 16 per cent. The ordinary beet was improved by seed selection, so that an enormous industry has been built up to the world. This has been done with a plant which seeds once in two years. Corn produces a crop every year. A single seed producing a return of over a thousand fold. From this great number of offspring, varying in size, shape, color and composition, a selection can be made which will develop any feature of the seed or plant. By continued selection these valuable attributes may be fixed in the characteristics of the plant and the usefulness and importance of the crop increased. To illustrate the point: We have been able, by selecting ears having long shanks, to increase the length of the shank nearly two feet in five years' selection. By selecting ears with tall stalks we have been able to increase the height of the stalk almost three feet in five years. By selecting ears from plants having wide leaves we have been able to increase the average width of the leaf, and by selecting ears from stalks having narrow leaves we have been able to decrease the width of the leaf.—Cosmopolitan.

OLD-FASHIONED ROAST BEAST.

It is to be feared that many excellent modes of cooking which prevailed in the past are now abandoned simply to save trouble, says the London Lancet. The modern cook or the person who calls herself such, although she may be positively instructed to roast meat in the good old-fashioned way, in a screen in front of the fire, contentedly ignores her instructions and puts the joint in the oven. The introduction of the "kitchen," or the closed range, and of the gas cooker, probably accounts for the preference which is given to baking, while it does away with the necessity of basting and other little but important culinary attentions which roasting involves. There can be little doubt that by this exchange of method not a few persons are dietetic sufferers.

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FARM AND GARDEN.

Grass or Grain Cutter. We present an illustration of a new lawn mower, which has several novel features for convenience. The mowers already in the field. The man who cuts the grass will remember that every time he lets the work go too long it was necessary to run the mower over some parts of the lawn several times before all the long blades were down, or else leave the lawn with a ragged appearance. The principal advantage of this new machine is that, no matter how long the grass gets, the first cutting will bring it all down to the common level; in fact, the longer the grass the better the cutters will work. As will be seen, the cutters are circular, toothed wheels, revolving in horizontal planes and actuated by gear wheels set on the inner ends of the drive-wheel shafts. These cutters are in reality nothing but a set of circular saws, and their action is exactly the same, saving the grass blades off as the mower is pushed over with a ragged appearance. The provided with ball bearings, thus reducing the friction to a minimum, and

ROTARY KNIVES ON LAWN MOWER.

By doing away with the necessity for running the mower over high grass more than once the machine should save much labor for the farmer. The inventor—Thomas F. McDonald, of Cincinnati, Ohio—also applies the same principle to a machine for cutting grain or hay.

PATENT HEN'S NEST.

Poultrymen who are looking for a means to keep hens from breaking or eating their eggs will be interested in a Californian's invention. The machine he has devised consists of a hen's nest and a series of pockets or receptacles, each containing a mechanical device which prevents each of the pockets in turn beneath the opening in the

CUPS REVOLVE UNDER NEST.

bottom of the nest to receive the newly-laid eggs. In the passage through which the egg falls to the pocket is a trigger, which releases a rotary frame carrying the pockets, so that, as soon as the egg reaches the bottom of its receptacle an empty pocket is released beneath the opening of the nest. In addition to preventing the hens from smashing or eating their eggs, this arrangement will afford a protection against rats and other animals which have been known to break and eat the eggs. As the pockets and operating mechanism of this nest are visible from view by a wood or metal casing, there is nothing to indicate to the suspicious hen that the nest differs from the ordinary kind.

A STUDY IN FERTILIZERS.

The fertilizing value of the state of New York has operated to the great advantage of the farmer. Not only has the quality of the goods on the market been held well up to the guarantee, but the number of brands has been greatly lessened, thus tending to simplify the purchase of such goods. However, farmers have not yet learned to take full advantage of the information at their disposal in the successive bulletins of analysis issued by the station at Geneva. Accordingly the station has just prepared a short bulletin calling attention to some striking differences in quality and relative value between the brands of fertilizer classes. Every fertilizer user should avail himself of the chance to secure this bulletin and take it as a guide in his selection of goods. A postal card sent to the station, bearing your name and address, will bring the bulletin to you by return mail.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

HOT OIL PREVENTS RUST.

Two coats of hot oil, carefully applied after thorough cleaning of the metal, are recommended by a Canadian artisan as an improvement over any process now in use for preventing rust of structural iron and steel. The oil will fill crevices, cracks and holes where paint cannot enter. It would cover rough surfaces often imperfectly coated by ordinary painting. It would be a fine preparation for subsequent painting or covering with cement coating. When iron work has been neglected and is covered with rust nothing will clean it so smoothly and quickly as gasoline and rubbing. Then apply the hot oil to prevent further rusting. This is good treatment for plows, mowers, and the like.—New England Homestead.

BEST GENERAL PURPOSE APPLE.

With the desire to produce a good shipping red apple, the Rhode Island Greening, that standard variety of most high excellence in every point, is being largely neglected. As a cooking apple it has few superiors. As a dessert fruit it is highly prized. As a free grower in the orchard and as a regular and abundant bearer it ranks among the best. As a fruit universally in demand in our home and foreign markets is attended by the excellent prices it steadily commands. This grand old standard variety, "Why" perhaps more good general qualities than any other, should be more extensively planted and to the exclusion of other and lower grade varieties.—American Agriculturist.

LEAVE THE OLD HEN IN PEACE.

During the hatching, if you are wise, you will not be too curious, but will allow the instinct of the hen to do her work. It may be well to quietly reach under her and remove such eggshells as can be removed without disturbing her, but nothing further should be attempted.

WHITEWASH FOR OLD WOODWORK.

An old barn or shed not well covered with boards or paint can be given a new lease of life with a coat of whitewash. Slake a bushel of lime, strain, add half a bushel of salt dissolved in water, a pound of ground whiting and two pounds of dissolved glue. This is a very close, durable whitewash, and a coat of it will make old boards

weather-proof for many years. A little lambblack will make the color effect less glaring, giving a quiet, gray tone.

SWINE OUTLOOK.

Swine growers have the prospect of a good year. Pigs are short in supply and prices are comparatively high. Even if the coming crop runs out very large, and thus reduces the price of feed, it will require a considerable length of time to bring the supply of porkers up to the demand for them. This means a high range of prices, a regular and increasing demand, and lower cost of production of pork. The farmers in the dairy region ought to be able to see in this state of affairs a chance for them to do a good stroke of business in the growing of swine as a side line. They can realize anywhere from 20 to 50 cents per hundred weight for their skin milk and butter milk, and obtain for their porker fat enough money to cover the cost of making the milk and to net them a profit. The co-operating dairy farmers who next fall will have ten to fifty fat swine to sell at a good round price will be in a position to understand the possibilities of profit which they have been ignoring for years. Swine will be sold next fall, unless all present signs fail, and skin milk-fed swine will represent the greatest possible profit to the producers.—New York Farmer.

DIVERSIFIED PRODUCTION PAYS.

Many a farmer is poor to-day after ten, twenty or thirty years of hard work, because he has confined himself to a single line of production, and that line an overproduced and consequently a profligate one. To be successful in agriculture, the farmer should diversify his production, while the loudest complaints of unprofitableness come largely from those who are distinctly "single line" farmers.—New York Farmer.

MARVELS OF CORN CULTURE.

Corn breeding is a modification of live stock breeding and follows the same general laws and principles. It is the application of principles of plant and animal breeding to the corn plant. The percentage of sugar in the sugar beet has been increased from 10 per cent to 16 per cent. The ordinary beet was improved by seed selection, so that an enormous industry has been built up to the world. This has been done with a plant which seeds once in two years. Corn produces a crop every year