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Secretary Cortelyou says the government should establish a great aquarium at Washington. If the government furnishes the tanks Wall street can furnish the water.—Commoner.

Sergeant John Martin, the only survivor of General Custer's regiment engaged in the battle of the Big Horn in 1877, has just been placed on the retired list of the army. Two hundred and seventy-seven of his companions were killed during the engagement.

V. J. Kirwan, mayor of Severance, Kan., has given under his hand and seal a leap-year proclamation which concludes: "It shall be lawful, right, proper and fitting and the unalienable privilege of any single woman in this city, be she maid or widow, to ask or solicit the hand in wedlock of any single man, young or old, whom she may choose. And any man so asked shall be in duty bound to accept such proposal unless he can give good and sufficient reason for refusing. Such reason being leased upon the fact of his being already engaged."

It is related of Dr. Joseph Bell, who is in a measure the original of Sherlock Holmes, that while a professor of medicine at Edinburgh he invited his class to test their powers of perception by tasting a dark amber colored liquid, showing them that it was harmless by dipping his finger in the fluid and touching his finger tip to lip. When they had all made wry faces he gravely informed them that if their powers of observation had been good they would have seen that while it was the foregoing that went into the nauseous mixture it was the middle finger that found its way to his mouth.

Japan's greatest warrior is General Viscount Katsura, who became prime minister of the country two years ago. The viscount, who has been called the Lord Roberts of Japan, began his military career in 1867, during the civil war which overthrew the old order of things and resulted in the adoption of western civilization. He was a lieutenant then and so good was his record that at the conclusion of the war the government sent him to Germany to study military affairs. Then he returned home and remodeled the Japanese soldiers on the European plan. Now, he is regarded as one of his country are fit to go against those of any other.

On the United States pension roll of the Topeka agency is the name of a man who has served in three wars and is 100 years old. His name is Thomas E. Saults of Webb City, Mo., whom he conducts a little shoe shop and makes a living in spite of his hundred years. He was born in Tennessee in 1803. He was a soldier in the Seminole, the Mexican and the civil wars. In the civil war he was a sergeant of the Sixth Kansas cavalry. That was after he had passed 50. After the Mexican war he represented the county of his nativity in the Tennessee legislature. While he lived in Tennessee he was a lawyer. His pension is \$30 a month and was granted by a special act of congress.

Where Women Rule. It is said that the women of Tehuantepec are the most beautiful of all the Mexican women, and they do all the labor, transact all the business and fill the market places. They are the leaders in their business world. The men are much their inferiors, being small and weak, taking little interest in life and doing very little work. It is claimed that their degeneracy is due to their devotion to their native um, aguardiente, through generations. The women are devoted to the market, and go there by the hundreds every day; while the men are seldom seen and do not frequent the street. While the women are in evidence everywhere, they are polite, modest, intelligent and happy, shrewd in business and careful in details, and no foreigner can compete with them. It is difficult to account for the strong development of the women in comparison with the degeneracy of the men. The people are the Zapotecos Indians.—Commoner.

Richard Olney's Domestic Policy. "In his recent New York speech Richard Olney advocated a conservative tariff policy, which lines fairly well with the "Iowa idea." He said: "In matters domestic the democratic party will repudiate the "stand pat" policy and will advocate both economy in expenditures and such tariff reform and revision as industrial conditions and the interests of the country at large demand. In that view it will stand for a reasonable relation between governmental revenues and governmental requirements; for clean administration and official conduct, free from every suspicion of "graft," for amendments of existing tariff schedules in the interest of the country at large and not in that of special syndicates or favored industries; for such access to foreign markets, by tariff adjustments or reciprocity treaties, as will enable American producers to dispose of their surplus products; for taking from the so-called "trusts" that kind and degree of protection which enables them both to monopolize the home market and to sell to the foreign consumer at prices greatly below those made to the domestic consumer."

WHY CUBS ARE KILLED.

Prison Life Often Robs Animals of Maternal Spirit. Among the huge cages of the carnivorous animals—the lithe tigress, the treacherous and soft footed leopardess and frequently even the generous lioness herself—the life of a baby with animal becomes sometimes a tale of bloodshed and tragedy. Nagged and galled by prison bars, by narrow confines that make exercise impossible and by the excitement of thousands of sightseers, these naturally nervous and high strung brutes become overwrought to a pitch where they satisfy an unnatural cannibal appetite on their own flesh and blood.

Like little bundles of sunshine the kittens of these ferocious brutes appear, mewling plaintively with tight shut eyes and groping in the darkness. Thousands of them have been born behind the bars of menagerie cages—no fault lies with the irresponsible, crazy mothers pounce upon and devour them or else injure them beyond hope of recovery. When the watchfulness and a pitiful care of a keeper succeed in rescuing one of these kittens, it is given in charge of some big mother dog, which adopts the stranger and rears him. Now and then, however, some strong, healthy, intelligent member of this ferocious family ceases to worry and fret at captivity, and the maternal instinct crowing to the fore, the care of a litter of cubs becomes a welcome relief from the stern monotony of prison life.—A. W. Rolker in McClure's.

When Beards Were Barred. In the latter part of the last century a social tyranny prevailed which regarded the beard as an outrage, says an English writer. At one time only four men in Birmingham had courage to wear beards. They were followers of William Southcott. They did it in imitation of the apostles and were jeered at in the streets. George Frederick Muntz, one of the first two members elected in Birmingham, was the first member who ventured to wear a beard in the house of commons, and he would have been insulted had he not been a powerful man and carried a heavy Malacca cane, which he was known to apply to any one who offered him a personal affront. The Rev. Edmund L. Larken of Burton rectory, near Lincoln, was the first clergyman (that was as late as 1852) who appeared in the pulpit with a beard, but he shaved the upper lip as an apology for the audacity of his chin. George Dawson was the first nonconformist preacher who delivered a sermon in a full blown mustache and beard, which was taken in both cases as an unmistakable sign of latitudinarianism in doctrine. In the bank clerk or the workman it was worse. It was flat insubordination not to shave.

The Mutton and Scruples. The following amusing story told about an old time south sea trader. He had been in the habit of carrying all sorts of tinned meats, which the natives bought with avidity. Each tin was branded with a colored picture—a cow for beef, a sheep for mutton and a fish for sardines. It happened that the firm who furnished the mutton thought it a good plan to change their labels, that their goods might be more easily distinguished from others. The mark chosen was a red dragon. The natives came with their copra to trade as usual. The new tin were shown them, but they recoiled with horror and gave the trader to understand that they had had some religious instruction and were not to be deluded into eating tinned devil.

The Best of Three. After a criminal case in which Sir Frank Lockwood had secured an acquittal for the prisoners, Lord Brampton, then Sir Henry Hawkins, privately congratulated him on the excellent way in which he had conducted the case and remarked especially on the alibi that had been established. "Yes," was the characteristic reply, "I thought it was pretty good—anyhow, the best of the three I had offered to me"—Golden Penny.

He Knew Right On. "Ah," cried the wretched Mr. Newport, "what can be more wearing on the nerves than a baby that cries all night long?" "Twins," answered the man who had been through it.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Opposition. A certain amount of opposition is a great help to a man. It is what he wants and must have to be good for anything. Harshly and opposition are the native soil of manhood and self reliance.—John Neal.

Our duty is to be useful not according to our desires, but according to our powers.—Amliel.

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