THE DONALDSONVILLE CHIEF.

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Donaldsonville Chief.

Amicus Humani Generis.

A Wide-Awake Home Newspaper

Published Every Saturday, at

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—BY—

LINDEN E. BENTLEY,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Plain and fancy sewing of all kinds done in best style and on reasonable terms. A trial solicited and satisfaction guaranteed.

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HORSE-SHOER, ETC.,

Railroad Avenue, between Mississippi and Iberville streets,

DONALDSONVILLE.

I have the honor to inform the public that I have established myself at Icard's old stand, where I am prepared to do all work in my line promptly, efficiently and at the most reasonable rates. I respectfully solicit a share of the public's patronage and am willing to stand or fall by the merit of my work and prices as compared with those of other establishments. sep25

DONALDSONVILLE BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, Etc.

JNO. F. PARK, dealer in Staple and Fancy Groceries, Provisions, Plantation and Steamboat Supplies, Canned Goods, Wines, Liquors, Bottled Beer, Ale, etc., Dry Goods and Notions, corner of Mississippi and Chetimaches streets, opp. River Ferry.

A. DEVEGA, Agent, dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Hats, Groceries, Liquors, Furniture, Hardware, Tobacco, Paints, Oils, Glass, Lumber, Bricks, Carts and Wagons; Loeb's corner, Railroad Avenue and Mississippi street.

BERNARD LEMANN, dealer in Western Produce, fancy and staple Groceries, Liquors, Hardware, Iron, Paints, Oils, Carts, Plows, Saddlery, Stoves and Tinware, Furniture, Crockery, Wall Paper and House Furnishing Goods, Mississippi street, corner Crescent Place.

JOSEPH GONDRAN, dealer in Clothing, Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Groceries, Wines, Liquors, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Paints, Oils, Saddlery, Crockery, Furniture and all kinds of House Furnishing Goods, Blue Store, Mississippi street.

M. TOBIAS, dealer in Groceries, Dry Goods, Clothing, Notions, Boots and Shoes, Hats, Furniture, Hardware, Crockery, Trunks, etc., corner Mississippi and St. Patrick streets and No. 24 Railroad Avenue. Everything at lowest figures.

C. KLINE, corner Crescent Place and St. Honinas street, dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Boots and Shoes, Groceries, Provisions, Corn, Oats and Hay.

M. ISRAEL & CO., dealers in Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots, Shoes, Saddlery, Buggies, etc., corner Mississippi street and Railroad Avenue.

S. MOYSE, dealer in Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Groceries, Furniture, Hardware and Plantation Supplies, at Lemann's old stand, Mississippi street.

S. WEINSCHENCK, dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Clothing, Groceries, Hardware, Hats, Boots and Shoes, and general Plantation Supplies, Railroad Avenue, between Iberville and Attakapas streets.

JNO. SOLOZANO, dealer in Groceries, Wines and Liquors, Crockery, Tinware, Notions, etc. No. 21 Railroad Avenue, between Conway and St. Michael streets, Donaldsonville.

ANTOINE PFISTER, dealer in Fancy and Staple Groceries of all kinds, of best qualities and at lowest prices; Wines, Liquors, Boat and Plantation Supplies, etc., Railroad Avenue, near the Depot.

LIQUOR AND BILLIARD SALOONS.

THE PLACE, Gus. Israel, manager, Corner Lessard and Mississippi streets. Billiards, Lager Beer, Best Wines and Liquors, Fine Cigars, etc.

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ROBT. E. LEE HOTEL, at Marx Israel's old stand, corner Mississippi and Lessard streets, Jos. Lafargue, proprietor. Bar and billiard room attached. First-class entertainment and accommodations.

ST. LOUIS HOTEL, Lucy Butler, proprietress, Crescent Place, near the wharf. First-class Board and Lodging at reasonable rates.

CITY HOTEL, P. Lefevre, Proprietor, Railroad Avenue, cor. Iberville street. Bar supplied with best Liquors.

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PHILIP GEIGER'S Confectionery and Fruit Store, Mississippi street, adjoining Lemann's old stand. Cakes, Soda Water, Nuts, Toys and Fancy Articles.

DONALDSONVILLE CONFECTIONERY, by A. Grilhe, Mississippi street, near St. Patrick. Branch on Railroad Avenue, near Opelousas street. Cakes, Fruits, Nuts, Soda Water, Ice Cream. Cakes, Ice Cream and Syrups for weddings and parties furnished on short notice.

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LOUIS J. RACKE, Tinsmith, Mississippi street, at Lemann's old stand. Orders attended to with dispatch and satisfaction insured.

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L. FERNANDEZ, Barber Shop, Mississippi Street, near corner Lessard. Shaving, hair-cutting, shampooing, etc., in most artistic style.

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B. RYBISKI, Apothecary and Druggist, Mississippi street, between St. Patrick and St. Vincent streets, adjoining Gondran's store.

CENTRAL DRUG STORE, corner Railroad Avenue and Iberville street, L. Blanchard, proprietor. Fresh Drugs and Medicines.

MILLINERY.

MRS. M. BLUM, Milliner, Mississippi street, between Lessard and St. Patrick. Latest styles of Bonnets, Hats, French Flowers, etc.; also, all kinds of Ladies' Underwear.

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SODA WATER MANUFACTORY, H. Hether, proprietor, No. 11 Mississippi street. Soda, Mineral, Seltzer and all kinds of aerated waters manufactured, and sold at lowest prices.

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Donaldsonville, La.

R. H. DUNN,

Carpenter and Builder,

Post-office Box No. 1.

Donaldsonville, La.

FARMER BEN'S THEORY.

"I tell ye, it's nonsense," said Farmer Ben,
"This farmin' by books and rules,
And sendin' the boys to learn that stuff
At the agricultural schools.
Rotation o' crops and analysis!
Talk that to a young baboon!
But ye needn't be tellin' yer science to me,
For I believe in the moon.

"If ye plant yer corn on the goin' moon,
And put up the line for crows,
You'll find it will bear, and yer wheat will, too,
If it's decent land where it grows.
But potatoes, now, are a different thing.
They want to grow down, that is plain;
And don't ye see you must plant for that
When the moon is on the wane?

"So in plantin' and hoein' and hayin' time
It is well to have an eye
On the hang of the moon—ye know ye can tell
A wet moon from a dry.
And as to hayin', you wise ones now
Are cuttin' yer grass too soon;
If you want it to spend, just wait till its ripe,
And mow on the full o' the moon.

"And when all the harvest work is done,
And the butcherin' times come round;
Though yer hogs may be lookin' the very best,
And as fat as hogs are found,
You will find yer pork all shriveled and shrunk
When it comes to the table at noon—
All fried to rags—if it wasn't killed
At the right time of the moon.

"With the farmer's meetin's and granges now
Folks can talk till all is blue;
But don't ye be swallerin' all yo hear,
For there ain't mor'n half on't true.
They are tryin' to make me change my plans,
But I tell 'm I'm no such coon;
I shall keep right on in the same old way,
And work my farm by the moon."

Babies.

Other people's babies are miserable little pests, but as posterity couldn't very well get along without them, they had best be named among the necessary evils.

They are of only two classes, but infinite variety. There's the solemn, bald-headed baby, whose face is a constant interrogation mark, and the rosy, fat baby, that one always feels like pinching, and—but why enumerate? who of us are not familiar with the whole category, from the little, pink, crying mass of humanity, to the miniature men and women one meets nowadays.

What a change a baby's coming makes in a household, to be sure, and what merciless tyrants they are after their arrival. One can always tell a baby-ridden domicile; there's a general fagged out, down-at-the-heel look about the womankind, and the mantel ornaments are invariably in a state of grimy chippedness. Every thing is subservient to the little tyrant from the time the first wailing protest falls upon the listening hearts, to the no less joyful period when the little toddler first stands alone and lisps, "mamma."

Mamma! Ah, me! who can feel deeper than she, the great, terrible blank they leave behind when called away; when all the joy and sunshine of life seems centered in one tiny, new-made mound; when little feet are stilled, and silvery voices hushed forevermore.

Other children come to her and twine about her heart and grow into great sturdy boys and girls, but somehow, the little bud that faded ere she realized the joy its presence brought, is always "Baby" to her.

Oh, ye whose little ones have drifted off upon Death's ebbing tide, thank God for Memory, that light-house in the ocean of the past.

The boy baby is always fat and noisy, and after the first two years becomes an insufferable nuisance. At that age, however, the girl baby commences to exhibit some of the latent sweetness she holds in reserve, and continues improving steadily for about sixteen years, after which she goes back into long clothes, and for regular first-class saccharine matter, beats the world.

For the benefit of humanity—and visitors—babies ought to be suppressed for the first ten or fifteen months of their existence. During that period they have as many stages as diseases, the names of which are legion.

There's the innocent stage, when baby draws down the corners of two dewy lips, opens wide a pair of starry eyes, and looks the personification of every thing lovable. Then the molasses-fingered stage, when, with a supreme disregard of the agony it inspires, baby goes prancing off astride one's new parasol. Then the dirty-faced stage, when the fond parent labors under the delusion that every one wants to "kiss baby;" and the smart stage, when mamma bribes baby with offers of sundry sweeties, to "say it pretty for the lady," while the agonized "lady" smiles inanely, and takes a mental inventory of her surroundings.

A baby can do more walking in one day than its own progenitor, and then be fresh enough to stay up half the night and serenade the neighbors. They generally select the midnight hour of all the twenty-four to ventilate their private opinions, and have to indulge in deep draughts of paregoric punch and soothing syrup before becoming like the Solid South, "conquered, but not subdued."

Their diet is about as comprehensive as a cassowary's. The doting mother labors under the impression that it eats only mush and milk, whereas the depraved infant lunches on mud pies, brick-dust, daily papers, shirt buttons and other "unconsidered trifles," and then spends a couple of hours trying to swallow its own feet.

Ah, well, after all, they are dear, adorable little nuisances—at least one's own babies are. PENELOPE.

Reed's Gilt Edge Tonic cures chills and fever.

Notes from Aunt Chat's Portfolio.

Good-Bye to Gotham—Back to Chicago by way of Montreal—Encountering Customs Officials—Chicago's Wonderful Enterprise—Gigantic Achievements of Man's Genius and Money—Advantages and Beauties of the Lake City—A Noted Physician—The Founder of the Y. M. C. A.—Anecdotes of Gen. Ben. Butler.

CHICAGO, Ill., Nov. —, 1880.

EDITOR CHIEF:

With sighs of regret and hearts full of sweet memories, we left New York, to return—ah, who knows if we will ever return? Who can divine the future? Hope promises well, but hope is a flatterer.

Hopes, what are they?—Beads of morning,
Strung on slender blades of grass;
Or a spider's web adorning
In a strait and treacherous pass.

We came to Chicago by way of Montreal and Detroit, a circuitous but delightful route except for the go-easy, go-as-you-please style of running trains through Canada. We went at a snail's pace, took a long rest at each station, reached Montreal two hours behind time, and had to remain there twelve hours.

We did not mind the penalty at all and set about improving our time. We walked up town through a feathery snow storm and as a pleasant change from the lunch basket took a nice hot breakfast in a restaurant. Then we engaged a carriage by the hour and, wrapped in ulsters and furs, went sight-seeing. We rode up the mountain and the way the driver crept along to stretch out the hours was amusing as well as provoking. Nature presented a beautiful spectacle in her sheeny robes of white—a sight rare indeed to Louisianians. The drive is a fine one and the view very grand, no doubt, when the atmosphere is clear, but it was too cold for us to enjoy it under any circumstances and we were glad to return and take refuge in the Roman Catholic Cathedral. Service was being held in one of the chapels, itself a good sized church. The building is grand and beautiful but not so large, I think, nor nearly so beautiful as St. Patrick's in New York. The English Church Cathedral is handsome but not at all imposing.

Going in and out of Canada we encountered the Custom-House officers and found those of the States much the more strict. When they went into the sleeper to inspect baggage it was fun to watch the people. Some fancied themselves insulted, got vexed and showed real genius for resistance. Of course they received worse treatment, were obliged to see their satchels entirely emptied of their contents; while others, who displayed a willingness to comply with the law, were undisturbed. Resistance at such times is certainly bad policy.

I am perhaps more pleased than ever with Chicago. In enterprise, energy and industry she has no equal. The progress of thirty years seems like enchantment. Yes, thirty years ago, this was a miserable mud hole, and nothing gives a Chicagoan more pleasure than to tell of the difficulties that came near sinking the city into insignificance, and of the wonderful skill, energy, perseverance—to say nothing of the money—with which those difficulties were overcome. The city was too low. The water of Lake Michigan, by some convulsion of nature, arose near two feet—actually to within a foot of the level of the city—and there was fear of inundation. The drainage became bad, because, in consequence of this rise, the Chicago river, which divides the city and which had been its chief drain, could no longer discharge its water into the lake. The water near the lake shore became too impure to drink; and epidemics threatened frequent recurrence. How to remedy all these evils was a problem—a problem which the people determined should be solved at any cost. The city and all the buildings *were raised eight feet.* The Chicago river was *forced to run up stream* by digging a canal and connecting it with the Illinois river at a point lower than the lake, affording an opportunity to the pure water of the lake to run up the Chicago river, through the canal into the Illinois, thence into the Mississippi and on down into the Gulf of Mexico. The crib—a circular stone wall, extending to the bottom of the lake—was built three miles out. The water was pumped out of the enclosure and a shaft sunk therein to a great depth and from the bottom of this a tunnel was excavated to the shore, where it was tapped by another shaft. By means of powerful pumps pure water is forced through this tunnel and abundantly supplied to the city.

These three gigantic undertakings—the raising of the city level, the improvement of the drainage by changing the current of the Chicago river, and the conduct of pure water from the body of the lake, have immortalized Chicago and rendered her the most remarkable of modern cities. If she has a heavy debt, she has much to show for it and may point with just pride to her fine commerce, public buildings, parks, etc.

The people of Chicago are genial and warm hearted; receive you into their homes as if it were a real pleasure and not a mere formality. House-keeping is rendered easy by systematic management and because of the convenient private markets. One need walk but a couple of blocks at any hour of the day to order the best of marketing and have the smallest purchase sent home. The ladies display an independence which is much to be admired. It is customary for them to go to market and they drive any where and every where in their little basket phætons, without an attendant. It requires skill too to drive through the business marts. A lady was driving me to "Lincoln Park," from the South to the North side. What hair-breadth escapes we made and how harrowing it was to delicate nerves I need not say, yet she was as calm and as well nerved as a man. She said, "I fear nothing that I can see, but really I should have an eye in the back of my head to ward off all danger. Not long ago I was driving with a lady when a vehicle from the rear ran into mine, broke my wheel and lodged us in the street."

The park is one of the loveliest I ever saw. It had few natural advantages and proves what money and taste can accomplish. One view in particular, from a bridge overlooking an artificial lake, is like a picture—a view, which once seen is not soon forgotten.

The shops are just as elegant as they can be and offer many inducements to Southern patronage. What will you say when I tell you that many of our people not only patronize Northern shops but Northern physicians. There is a physician here (not a quack) whose reputation is such that people come from great distances to consult him and many who can not come, consult him by letter. John says his waiting room is crowded all day; that each person upon entering receives a numbered ticket and must wait his turn to be admitted to the consultation room. Quite a number of his patients are Orleanians and according to their accounts his cures have been wonderful. Now, all this seems very strange. Surely the physicians of New Orleans are the equals of those in Chicago; in fact—I have always heard the highest praise awarded the medical faculty of New Orleans. At any rate, I can but think this a mere fancy on the part of a few enthusiasts; and that such men as Drs. Bickham, Bruns, Pope, Brickell, Stone and others are the peers of any in these United States.

We met a gentleman, who showed us a report of the "Young Men's Christian Association" of Chicago, in which was an honorable mention of himself. In 1837 he came here a poor young man; it was when the city numbered only 2000 inhabitants instead of 500,000. In 1840, feeling the need of some place, beside the tavern and coffee-house, where young men could meet for mutual improvement and mutual encouragement, he conceived the idea of establishing reading rooms. He induced a few gentlemen to meet in his store. They devised ways and means and then and there organized the present Y. M. C. Association, which has grown to mammoth size and is no doubt powerful in its exercise of good. So, a man, unconsciously as it were, makes history. What a contrast does the large minded Mr. Otis, who lived in the world for the good of the world, present to one who lives only for self, heedless of the fact that every one, by the order of God's laws, has a part to perform in the public drama of life.

I think I must close this letter now with a bit of gossip. The wearisome hours of travel before reaching here were enlivened by conversation with a genial, lively Bostonian. He sought information with regard to the South and finally, with a merry twinkle of the eye, asked if we had ever known General Ben. Butler. He told some amusing anecdotes of him and the following will show how entirely free his disposition is from delicate sensitiveness. Imagine a mind so gross as to be incapable of sensibility! On one occasion the General was at an elegant entertainment. The lady of the house, in looking after the comfort and well being of her guests, said, "General, have you a spoon?" The General instantly clapped his hands to his several pockets and said, "No, madam, indeed I have not." During a political campaign he went to a Western town to make a speech. Just as he ascended the platform to speak, some one showed him an opposition paper, which, in announcing his arrival, had warned the people to look out for their silver spoons. He turned at once to the audience, alluded to the notice and said, "The gentleman might have saved himself the trouble; I never take plated ware." The General tells himself of hearing two men, while in New Orleans, disputing as to the existence of yellow fever in the city; at last, perfectly exasperated, the one on the negative side yelled out, "Do you suppose God would permit two such scourges as Ben. Butler and yellow fever at one and the same time?"

AUNT CHAT.

Morgan City *Review:* A colored man by the name of Robert Jackson was cut in two lengthwise by the Houston train going East last Monday, at a point about three miles from Berwick, back of Pine Grove plantation. He had been working at Lagonda, and was drunk in Berwick Sunday. It is supposed he was under the influence of liquor when he laid himself upon the track.

Baton Rouge *Advocate:* Divers are at work raising the hull of the steam tug-boat Nelly that was burned last week. ....We learn a gentleman is here getting signatures to a petition to establish a daily mail between this city and New Orleans. This is an enterprise that should be encouraged and we hope every body will sign the petition. Our business men stand greatly in need of reliable daily mail facilities.

GENERAL NEWS SUMMARY.

Foreign.

Venice is thronged with Jesuits.

There is an anti-Jewish agitation in Berlin.

Over 3000 Jews have left Roumania for America.

Mexico has 30,000 men working on railroads.

Queen Victoria has insured her life for a large sum.

Bret Harte is seriously ill at Newstead Abbey, England.

Roland Bonaparte was married in Paris last week to M'lle Blanc.

The potato crop in Ireland for the present year will exceed any since 1850.

The Constanzi Theatre, now building at Rome, will be one of the largest in the world.

A storm at Buenos Ayres destroyed 700,000 cattle, 500,000 sheep and 250,000 horses.

There is a great insurrection of the Mahommedans in Kashgar against the Chinese.

At St. Lawrence Island, in the Behring Sea, 500 out of the 700 inhabitants died of starvation.

Great distress is prevalent in the Santa Cathrina Colonies, Brazil, caused by the disastrous floods.

King Theban of Burmah is preparing to make war against the British with an army of 3000 men.

The English clipper ship Boyne has been abandoned in the St. Lawrence, with a cargo of grain worth $7000.

The finest glass service ever produced in Bohemia will be given as a wedding present from the Austrian Chamber of Commerce to Prince Rudolph.

M'lle Bernhardt has received from King Christian of Denmark the order of the Danebrog. The only other ladies who have received this very exceptional honor are Mmes. Trebelli and Nilsson.

Domestic.

New York has vetoed the Passion play.

Salvini, the great tragedian, is in New York.

Fourteen vessels wrecked during the past week.

Four railroad accidents in one day at Buffalo, N. Y.

Five miners buried in a snow slide at Cheyenne, W. T.

Sixty men were buried under a snow slide at Denver, Col.

There are 2200 convicts in the penitentiary at Austin, Texas.

Last Summer there were 8655 dogs impounded in New York city.

The New York police are engaged in a general raid against lottery dealers.

One Washington hotel has already had 1700 applications for rooms on inauguration day.

The Chinese are leaving San Francisco for China in large numbers; 850 sailed in one vessel.

The Philadelphia mint will coin $10,000,000 more gold coin per month to meet the incressed demand.

Since the attempt to drive out adulterated milk from the city of New York began $15,000 of fines have been collected.

Eight steamers will cruise, during the Winter months, along the Eastern coast of the United States to aid vessels in distress.

During the past year over 1600 sick persons, received without regard to sect or color, have been treated in the Mount Sinai Hospital, New York.

Electricity is now used to light the Mount Vesuvius railway, some of the lamps being so arranged as to illuminate the sides and crater of the volcano.

A riot among miners at Robinson camp, near Denver, Col., resulted in the fatal wounding of Mr. Robinson, Lieutenant Governor elect of that State. He died shortly after.

The bell of the Congregational Church at Newtown, Conn., has been used one hundred and twelve years, and the golden rooster on top of the building has bullet marks made by soldiers of the Revolution shooting at it while passing through the town.

The Mormon Temple commenced at Salt Lake City twenty years ago is not yet finished. Already over $4,000,000 have been expended, and the structure, has scarcely assumed shape. Its total cost will exceed $28,000,000. It is to be built of Utah granite, and will be the finest building in the United States.

FIRES:

Foundry at Mattoon, Ills.; loss $150,000.

Lumber mill at Orange, Texas; loss, $50,000.

Bakery establishment at Portsmouth, Va.; loss, $6000.

Two-thirds of the town of Newport Ark., November 15; 200 families rendered homeless; loss, $200,000.

—During the recent severe storms in Germany, the subterranean lines of telegraph have proved so much better than the others that the German Government now proposes asking the Reichstag for authority to greatly extend the underground system.

The supplement comprising the proceedings of the Press Convention of the State has been issued to most of the country papers. It is quite an interesting document, containing a synopsis of the action of all the conventions that have ever been held by the Press in this State. A well written poem entitled "Reportorial Rhythm," composed by the gifted wife of L. E. Bentley of the Donaldsonville CHIEF, is to be seen at the head of the supplement.—*Franklin Sun.*

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

—According to Prof. Tait, a flash of lightning ten miles in length has been recorded by a trustworthy observer.

—The celery-growers of France have united in an offer of a prize of $2000 for the purpose of encouraging investigation into the nature of celery rust, and the discovery of a remedy.

—Prof. Tait of Edinburgh estimates that the energy developed in the form of heat by a fall of only one-tenth of an inch of rain over the whole of Great Britain is equivalent to the work of a million millions of horses for half an hour.

—For the discovery of a comet, on the 10th of October, Prof. Lewis Swift has been presented with a check for $500 by Mr. Warner, and expects to receive in addition a gold medal from the Imperial Academy of Sciences of Vienna. "During the whole history of astronomy," remarks the distinguished astronomer, "I think this is the highest price ever paid for a comet."

—M. Pirot has called the attention of the French Academy to the fact that neither insects, scorpions, tarantulas nor rattlesnakes are, so far as his knowledge extends, ever observed among the absinthe plants with which large tracts in North America are covered. This leads him to suggest that the manuring of land with absinthe might be fatal to the development of the grape-vine phylloxera.

—During a recent boring for water in the Wimmera district, Victoria, a tree was passed through for a distance of six feet at a depth of 250 feet. Several fruit stones were brought to the surface. At some period in the world's history a grove of trees probably occupied this spot, and the great depth of earth now covering the remains of the vegetation indicates a vast lapse of time since it flourished.

—The adulteration of tea is carried on to a surprising extent. M. Hussen, an eminent French chemist, has investigated the subject and made a report to the Paris Academy of Sciences. He finds that a great variety of substances are used as adulterants, such as Prussian blue, indigo, gypsum, chromate of lead, arseniate of copper, sulphate of iron, stearite, carbonate of magnesia, plumbago and kaolin. The Chinese often mix with tea the leaves and flowers of other plants.

—It was recently announced that Mr J. W. Swan, an English electrician, had succeeded in overcoming the difficulties met by Edison in perfecting his incandescent electric light. Mr. Swan has since read a remarkable paper in which he claims a priority of discovery of all the essential features of the Edison lamp. He pronounces his own lamp an entire success, and asserts that by a new plan of establishing circuits he can secure great economy over the system proposed by Edison.

—In bamboos, the flow of the sap takes place at the beginning of the rainy season, but vigorous shoots rarely grow before the thunder storms, which generally precede the harvest. The rapidity of their growth increases with the violence of the storm, amounting to as much as seventy feet within thirty days in some instances, the vegetation being most active during the night. These facts offer a curious confirmation of the experiments of Dr. Siemens on the influence of electricity upon plant growth.

—It is well known that, if a long dry tube, open at both ends, be held over a jet of burning hydrogen, a musical sound is produced, the pitch and quality of which vary with the length, thickness and diameter of the tube. It has been proposed to adapt such a tube to the safety lamp used in mines, placing it near a telephone in communication with another telephone in the manager's office. The alteration of the sound, due to a greater or less admixture of gas with the air of the mine, would warn the manager of the state of the atmosphere in the workings.

—From observations made during nearly twenty years in a forest in the Jura, it appears to be proved—first, that when light strikes the ground without having been sifted by foliage, it stimulates the production of carbonic acid in the soil; secondly, that the growth of wood is diminished when the undergrowth is so thick and tall as to impede the passage of sunlight to the soil, and its reflex action on the branches of the trees; and, thirdly, that mould in too great a thickness becomes inert, and thus remains for many years, as is the case with barnyard manure when too deeply buried.

—"The inconvenient young lady," remarks the *Electrician*, "whom the newspapers have lately discovered administering electric shocks to every body who shakes hands with her is not an original phenomenon. To say nothing of the Canadians who habitually lighted the gas with their fingers' ends in quite modern times, Virgil tells us that the hair of Ascanius emitted a harmless flame, and Servius Tullius is known to have shot sparks out of his locks at the precocious age of seven. A more exact counterpart of our female contemporary, however, lived at Verona about a couple of centuries ago. Cassandra Buri was unable to sleep in linen sheets because of the fire emitted from her body on getting into bed. Such were the crackling and blazing that her maids often fancied that they had dropped live cinders out of the warming pan into the bed. This is the dull season."