

Donaldsonville Chief.

Two Dollars a Year.

A WHISTLING GIRL.

A whistling girl and a crowing hen
Never come to good end.
Thus, with a happy disregard
Of risks for negatives and rhymes,
I've heard my dear old grandmamma
Say, very gravely, "I'm not
And of the hen it may be true;
I must confess I do not know,
Because, although I've listened oft,
I never chance to hear one crow.

But, oh! the whistling girl I've met;
As hitherto as any bird,
And from her lips, morn, noon and eve,
The merriest of trills are heard.
Lips that, kiss-shoulder, look when they pout
Out on the air a cheery strain,
As though, as some one says, "a rose
Had slant to be a bird again."

From task to task, with lightsome step,
She hastens, whistling as she goes,
And her soft hands charm what they touch,
And order from disorder grows.
But never in such haste is she
She can not pause to speak
To scolding children, or to kiss
A pretty dimpled baby cheek.

And, spite of the old saying, I
Wear never an hour a bonny curl
That once danced gaily to the tones
Of a light-hearted whistling girl—
A girl who soon I'll miss, I think,
My wife, my sweetheart and my friend,
And with me she shall happily
Please Heaven, live on, I shall end.
—Margaret Elyng, in Harper's Weekly.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

Entomologists in Great Britain consider the year 1892 to have been remarkable for the scarcity of insects.

It is reported that in parts of Switzerland there had been 200 rainy days last year up to the end of November with only 50 days of sunshine.

From records of the hippopotamuses of the London Zoological Garden it appears that the maximum age reached by these animals is about thirty years.

A spectrum line of helium, the element of which no traces have hitherto been found except in the spectrum of the sun, has been discovered by Mous. Palmieri in the lava of Mount Vesuvius.

One of the late finds at Pompeii is a collection of surgical instruments, the extent and nature of which indicate that the practice of surgery had attained a high development in that city.

Mr. C. H. Stearns has adopted small incandescent electric lamps to the illumination of objects under the microscope, and has exhibited the brilliant results to the British Royal Microscopical Society.

Of the 247 species of cultivated plants which DeCandolle recognizes as useful, 199 are natives of the Old World, 45 were furnished by America, while the original home of only three are considered doubtful.

Dr. Thomas Taylor finds it quite possible that flies may convey the germs of infectious or contagious diseases from place to place. Whether diseases are really ever so distributed is a question of great importance.

Sir William Thomson accepts Dr. Thomas Reid's enumeration of six senses—namely, the sense of force, of heat, of sound, of light, of taste and of smell—instead of the five we have been accustomed to attribute to man.

It has been asserted that opium-eaters are comparatively exempt from malaria, and in the East are quite sure to escape the cholera epidemics. The opium habit is itself, however, a disease hardly less serious than malaria or cholera.

A dog with horns seven inches long, which gave it the appearance of the male animal, was recently killed near Aix-la-Chapelle. Horned dogs are rare, although some of the old ones are known to have small rudiments of horns.

One of the glaciers mentioned in the "Himalayan Journals" of Dr. Joseph Hooker, has a vertical height of 14,000 feet. Its source is the great Kichinjunga mountain, whose summit reaches an altitude of 24,000 feet above the sea.

Mr. Frank Moffat has described to the Edinburgh Photographic Society a process for obtaining photographs by moonlight which he has successfully tried. A picture exhibited shows a house and trees very distinctly, while the differences in the level on a grassy lawn may be clearly seen.

The American project of establishing a common method of measuring time throughout the world has been laid before the French Academy. M. de Changonnois advocates a decimal division of the day and of the circle, the latter to contain four hundred degrees. As a universal prime meridian, he suggests the adoption of the meridian of Ptolemy, about 31.7 degrees from that of Paris.

In a design submitted for a proposed monument in Rome to the late Father Secchi, the structure bears, in addition to a statue of the eminent astronomer, several emblematic figures. One of these, representing Meteorology, has in its hand a gigantic barometer, which can be seen from a considerable distance; while a thermometer on an equally large scale is held up to public view by another figure, representing Physics.

At the recent congress of German surgeons, Dr. Noubert commended the antiseptic virtue of peat or black earth, which is put into loose gauze bags and tied over wounds by means of gossamer bandages. As usual in kind, this dressing is seldom changed or not at all. In Dr. Noubert's opinion the turf absorbs all secretions rapidly, and by its porosity favors their evaporation, while healing takes place as under a scab.

Mr. F. J. Faraday has offered a novel view of disease germs and epidemics. He states that Pasteur's researches show that certain deadly microbes may be the action of oxygen be weakened into comparatively harmless organisms. Assuming the change thus demonstrated it appears not improbable that, on the other hand, harmless organisms may become altered into disease parasites when lacking sufficient oxygen; and just as this lack of aeration may give a deadly character to the organisms so may an abundance of oxygen destroy the virulence of the germs. A gale of wind may therefore be more effective in stopping epidemics than any amount of disinfectants—which after all, may be really harmful by reducing the proportion of oxygen in the air; and it is possible to imagine fighting disease with a clean engine and a fan.

From observations of the planet Jupiter from September, 1879, to December, 1881, Herr Kortazzi has concluded that the great red spot must be either of a liquid or a solid nature. In the former case it may be considered as a large lake in an ocean of other liquid. If it is a solid body it must be a floating mass on the surface of an ocean, as it is only on this hypothesis that we can account for the changes in its position which are observed.

Prof. Cohn, of Breslau, Germany, has observed that children are obliged to hold dark-colored slates much nearer the eye to read writing thereon than is necessary with white paper, and finds that writing on white paper is as distinct at a distance of twelve inches from the eyes as that on slates at eight inches. It would therefore be well to banish slates from school-rooms, for the eyesight of pupils is strained quite enough by other means.

So vast is the weight of the atmosphere resting upon the surface of the earth that it is not surprising if the considerable local fluctuations of its pressure, as shown by the barometer, produce some effect upon the earth's crust. It has been found by Mr. Baldwin Latham that the streams flowing through the chalk yield an increased supply of water when the pressure upon the overlying earth is decreasing, and a diminished supply when the pressure is becoming greater—or, in other words, when the barometer is rising.

Attention was first given to double stars by Sir W. Herschel, who discovered a large number of them. The appearance known as a double star is of course caused when two of the heavenly bodies are very nearly in a line with the earth, one of them being much farther away than the other; but repeated observations have shown that many of them are really systems in which one component revolves around the other. The number of discoveries of double stars made up to the present time considerably exceeds 10,000.

The removal of the electric lamps which light the foreign settlement at Shanghai has been ordered by the Chinese Governor of the district, who says he has heard of the terrible accidents which have been caused by electricity, and he cannot allow his people to be exposed to the frightful risk of having hundreds of thousands of houses destroyed, millions of persons killed, or the walls of the city blown down, by any irregularity in the working of the electric machines!

The discovery of a so-called lignified snake in Brazil caused a sensation among scientific men a few months ago. The specimen was found between the bark and wood of a tree, and if it was ever a snake the animal structure had been entirely replaced by a woody growth. Dr. Gray, to whom the find has lately been shown, thinks it more probable that it was produced by the filling up with a woody growth of the reptilian shape of some wood-eating insect's track. Or it may be an aerial root which was growing under the bark.

It was at one time believed, according to Dr. Keller, that the opening of the Suez Canal would be followed by a rapid and extensive interchange of fish between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, but such has not been the case. Some of the smaller Mediterranean fish have been found in the Red Sea, and for some unknown reason the tide of migration appears to take that direction in preference to the other. The pearl oyster is said to be now moving toward the Mediterranean with very slow progress but in considerable number.

In Germany, the increasing consumption of rice has led Prof. Voit, as well as Dr. König, to investigate the question of the relative nutritive value of this article and other kinds of food—especially potatoes. The conclusion reached is that rice is a very efficient food, while potatoes largely consumed fail to satisfactorily nourish the body, making the muscles weak and the blood watery. Dr. König estimates that, when equal quantities of the two articles are considered, rice has four times the value of potatoes in really nutritive properties. A further advantage of rice is that its quality is always the same, while great variation in potatoes is caused by the state of the weather during their growth.

Communicated.
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They are measureless. You can by mathematical rules tell what a certain number multiplied will produce, but you can not tell what will be the ultimate of the material resources of Louisiana. They are limitless. From her timber swamps, from her cane fields, from her rice stacks comes a voice that echoes in volume and value as it comes, that you can not answer. What are the material resources of Louisiana? Oh, question of man! oh, answer of God! As time comes, what may not Louisiana produce? Hold would be the intellect that would give knowledge to her material resources. Her rivers and lakes produce fish; her forests bring as flesh, fowl, fruit and vegetables; her fields bring to their lords and rulers revenues fit for kings. And can we measure what her resources are? No. Lakes and rivers that hold untold wealth answer, no; express swamps, with their waving, whispering boughs, answer, no; countless millions of the gracefully swaying sugar cane answer, no. Her resources you can not measure, but we can dream of what *la belle State* will do in the future—and it is not a dream. We can see state ships sailing afar, builded from our swamps. They are freighted with the succulent products of our over-rich bottoms—food for the hungry thousands of other lands. We do not miss it. We see coming from other shores ships laden with strong framed, game-eyed mariners; they seek for a home? No. Louisiana opens her arms and by her generosity adds to her wealth. We see coming on the bosom of the father of waters barge after barge laden with the products of the West. They pay us tribute and pass on their way. We see from the shores of our metropolis thousands of bales of the finer cotton come and go; thousands of barrels of sugar and molasses follow; and our sons are still tribute. Practical people will say that Louisiana produces so many thousands of bales of cotton, so many thousands of barrels of sugar, but what her resources are no man knows; and my advice to Louisiana would be: Educate your children, open your waste lands, try to find out soon, and time alone can determine your material resources.

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