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THE BRAVE BASQUE.

A Proud and Unconquered People Who
Live in the Mountains of Spain.

In the most northern part of Spain,
where the Pyrenees dip into the Bay
of Biscay, is the country of the
Basques, the unconquered Spaniards.

These are the people of whom Caesar,
in his account of his conquest of
Spain, writes, "a few pretty people
higher up in the mountains, did not
make submission or send hostages."

The Roman poets called these people
Iberians, and pictured them as almost
supernatural, whom neither hunger,
heat, cold, nor armies could conquer,

and whose greatest joy was facing
peril. The Basques of today bear the
stamp of this ancient people; in char-
acter, disposition, language and cus-
toms, they are entirely different from
the Spaniards south of them, and in-
deed they can be classed with no other
race of the earth.

Their earliest an-
cestors were probably the cave dwell-
ers of the Alps and Pyrenees, whose
bones are found in the caverns of the
mountains, together with the remains
of those gigantic animals which were
the ancestors of our present quadru-
peds.

Only in this tiny country,
among the mountains have these
sturdy, stalwart people succeeded in
retaining anything of their own in-
dividuality. If this is their true ori-
gin, their earliest ancestors must have
lived twenty centuries before Christ,

and have been surrounded by a coun-
try different in physical features, and
covered with plants and animals which
have long since ceased to exist. Since
those days long ago, their whole force
has been used in fighting their way in
the world, in trying to preserve their
racial distinction. All previous to the
Roman conquest of Spain is, as far as
Basque history is concerned, a blank.

Even the Romans found it impos-
sible to conquer these sons of the
mountains, who, when hard pressed
by armies, or besieged in their fort-
ified towns, dashed themselves from
the highest rocks, and died by their
own hands rather than surrender. At
length Caesar, with great wisdom,
made them his allies, since they would
not become his slaves.

QUEER AND CURIOUS THINGS
AND EVENTS.

ASTOUNDING FEATS OF INDIAN FAHRS-
Strange sights in the Capital of Siam
—A Wonderful Crane— Crocodile's
Enemies.

To the Wood Robin.
Bard of the twilight hour!
My soul goes forth to mingle with thy
hymn.

Oh, holy bird, and sweet
Angel of this dark forest, whose rich
notes
Gush like a fountain in the still retreat,

My spirit drinks the stream,
Till human cares and passions fade
away;
And all my soul is wrapped in one sweet
dream.

Oh! when the birds of earth
Arise, silent birds, at close of life's long
day.

Feats of Indian Fahrs.
India, writes a recent traveler, is
preeminently the land of mystery, and
our most advanced magicians have
never been able to reproduce all their
marvelous performances.

One day in the
market place of an Indian village I
saw a curious performance. It was
conducted by two men—one old and
emaciated, carrying a native drum; the
other young and well fed, fantastically
gowned with an overskirt of colored
handkerchiefs and a multitude of bells,

which jangled noisily at the slight-
est movement; long, ragged hair—al-
together a hideous figure. The drummer
began a weird tom-tomming, and the
other man an incantation. Then he
extended a "supra"—a bamboo tray
used by all natives—on which any one
who pleases places a large handful of
rice and the same quantity of grain.

The two ingredients are thoroughly
amalgamated, so that it would in the
ordinary way take hours to separate
them. Now the fantastic man with his
tray stepped. He turns around slowly,
gradually quickening his pace
(the drummer also keeping time),
faster and faster. In a giddy vortex,
the tray at times almost out of his hand,

yet so cleverly handled that not a
grain falls out. It is very trying to
watch, but in a couple of minutes both
stop simultaneously, and the man
shows to the wondering spectators two
little heaps, one of rice and the other
grain, at different ends of the tray,
which in his sickening gyrations he
has been able to separate by some ex-
traordinary manipulation. Later, it was
my good fortune to be able to witness
one of those remarkable cases of vol-
untarily suspended animation of which
I had so frequently heard, and which
a somewhat dubious smile, I am afraid.

In the mountains there are rich
mines of iron, lead and zinc and the
valleys are sufficiently fertile to yield
grain of various kinds. Along the sea
coast the fisheries are extensive.

John Was Ready.
In these days of its proposed interna-
tional alliances it is interesting to read
of the little difficulty in which a Chi-
cago newsboy found himself involved,
and how he extricated himself there-
from. He had wandered over into one
of the "foreign quarters," on the west
side, where one can hear almost every
language except our vernacular, and
he was set upon by two or three boys.
He defended himself bravely and was
holding his own fairly well, until the
two or three were joined by as many
more, and then the battle began to go
against him. "Say!" he yelled to a
group of boys watching the fight from
the sidewalk, "Is there an English boy
in the crowd?" "Yes," shouted a
stockily built urchin of about his own
size. "Come here, then!" panted the
young American, laying about him
with all his might, "an' we'll clean
out the hull gang!" And they did.

SCIENTIFIC TOPICS.

CURRENT NOTES OF DISCOVERY
AND INVENTION.

Some Scientific Facts About the Hair-
Model Showing How Curly Hair is
Produced—How the Beetle Sees—Hun-
dreds of Images Upon the Eyes.

6,500 Degrees Fahrenheit.
Prof. Tucker of Columbia university
has succeeded in producing the great-
est heat yet known to man. A spec-
ially-constructed electrical furnace
and current of unusual power were
used to create this temperature, which
was so high that under it steel, hard
quartz and even platinum were vapor-
ized. As for ordinary crucibles, they
disappeared at once in a little puff of
smoke. The heat obtained was 6,500
degrees Fahrenheit, 200 degrees hotter
than any temperature before pro-
duced. Says a correspondent: It is
difficult to appreciate the degree of
such heat without some comparisons.

A Wonderful Crane.
We hear many stories of animals and
birds that have been carefully edu-
cated, but a story told in the Cornhill
Magazine is somewhat novel, inasmuch
as the crane of whose doings it tells
educated itself, and became a very ac-
complished bird without any outside
assistance. It lived with its mate in a
German village, and grew much at-
tached to the farmer to whom it be-
longed. The two cranes found their
simple country life exactly to their
taste, and soon knew every inhabitant
of the place. They used to call regu-
larly at the houses to be fed, and all
went well until the female bird died.

Then the other chose a strange one.
He took as his friend a bull, to whom
he showed the utmost devotion. He
would stand by the animal in the stall
and keep the flies off him, scream when
he bellowed, dance before him, and fol-
low him out with the herd. The com-
munal system of joint herding of cattle
and swine, and driving them together
to the pasture, prevailed in the village,
and in following his new friend the
crane learned the duties of cowherd,
so that one evening he brought home
the whole village herd of heifers un-
aided, and drove them into the stable.

From that day the crane's life became
a busy one. He undertook duties en-
ough to last him from morning till night.
He acted as policeman among the poultry,
stopping all fights and disorder.
Once, when a turkey and a game cock
were found fighting, the crane first
fought the turkey, and then sought
out and punished the cock. Once, when
two heifers lagged behind, he drove
them through the street so vigorously
that they became frightened and
broke away, running two miles in the
wrong direction. The bird was not dis-
couraged. He could not bring them
back, but he did the next best thing.

How the Beetle Sees.
Seeing double is a talent given occa-
sionally to a man under certain con-
ditions, but ordinarily a man's sight is
focused so that the view within the
scope of his eyes is seen in single com-
position. With the beetle, however,
these conditions are vastly different.
When he gazes at an object hundreds
of reproductions of it are carried
through his eyes, which are called
compound. The beetle's eye is formed
of several hundred lenses, set side by
side like the cells in honeycomb, each
cell being capable of vision. To illus-
trate how the world must appear to
the view of the beetle the picture here-
with shown is submitted. It is a re-
production of a curious photograph
made to give a tangible demonstration
of the action of a beetle's eye. To
make it Dr. Allen used a camera de-
signed for photographing microscopic
objects. In place of the usual photo-
graphic lens he employed the cornea
of the eye of a beetle to transmit the
image to the photographic dry plate,
aided by a powerful magnifying glass.

Admiral Makarov's Ice-Breaker.
The ice-breaking ship invented by
Admiral Makarov of the Russian navy,
lately completed at Newcastle, Eng.,
has been completely successful. It has
three screw propellers in the stern,
and another screw for ice-breaking at
the bow. Apparatus which permits
the shifting of 150 tons of water from
one end of the ship to the other, and
of 100 tons from side to side, enables
the navigator to change the lie of the
vessel at his will. It is said to have
"cut through the thick ice of the Fin-
nish gulf as easily as a hot knife goes
through butter. On its way to Kron-
stadt it went through two and a half
feet of ice at a speed of nine knots.

New Oil-Producing Plant.
At a recent meeting of the Linnean
Society in London specimens of a new
oil-producing plant from Venezuela
were exhibited. The oil resembles that
of sandal-wood, and is already known
in commerce, but the plant has hith-
erto remained undescribed. It proves to
be a new genus of the rue family, to
which the common prickly ash be-
longs, and it has been named Schim-
mia, after a German botanist who
first distilled the aromatic oil from its
wood.

Pens Before Christ.
Pens resembling our quill pens, but
made of reed, have been found in Egyp-
tian tombs supposed to date from a pe-
riod 2,500 years before Christ.

Her Fault.
"Looky here!" snarled Jason Haw-
back, whose nose was sadly abraded,
and who walked with a decided limp.
"Who did you mean by tellin' me that
that 'ere old blind dame I bought of
you yesterday wasn't a bad cow? Why
—go!—slam it!—first thing when I went
to milk her last night she hauled off
an' kicked me head over heels, jam-
min' my skull into the milk-pail an'
nearly 'natin' my fool neck. Then she
got me tangled up in the halter-
ropes somehow, an' drug me across the
cow lot an' back an' forth so many
times that I couldn't keep count of
'em, an' kicked me every once in a
while, for good measure. There's
skurely a bit of whole skin left on my
body big enough to make a common-
sense watch-pocket. If she ain't a bad
cow I'd like to know what in tarnation
would make you consider a cow
bad?"
"Waal," mildly replied Aaron All-
red, "if she'd done that wifout an'
maliciously, I s'pose I'd consider her
bad, but bein' acquainted with her
ever since she was a calf an' havin'
known her to cut up that same caper
a good many times before, I've decid-
ed that she's only jest thoughtless.
There's a good deal of difference be-
tween wickedness an' mere thought-
lessness, you know."

NEWS FROM THE
WESTERN REGION.

W. B. Askew, postmaster at Russell
Gulch, Colorado, and a member of the
grocery firm of Wagner & Askew, com-
mitted suicide by shooting himself.

The trial of the men charged with be-
ing principals in the notorious opera
house riot in Colorado Springs in Sep-
tember last began in the district court
on the 21st and they were acquitted.

A trainload visited Akron, Colorado,
on the 21st, and wrecked the dwellings,
barns and sheds on Dole & Gillette's
sheep ranch six miles northeast of Ak-
ron. Charles H. Abbott, who was
working at the ranch, was killed by
lightning while milking.

Caterpillars are destroying all the
fodder on the Peconic Valley forest re-
serve, especially on the quaking aspen
trees. Shovelers of the caterpillars
are picked up every morning by the
rangers and burned, but the plague is
increasing, and makes it very disagree-
able for visitors, who find themselves
and their horses literally covered with
the caterpillars after a few miles of
travel.

Mrs. Josiah Dunn of Arvada has left
with Secretary Shute of the horticultur-
al board in the state house, twelve
strawberries which filled a quart cup.
Many of them were over an inch in
circumference. They are of the Je-
cunda variety. The secretary will at-
tempt to preserve them so that they
may be displayed at the coming State
Fair.

The body of the 4-year-old daughter
of Lewis Fernebaugh of Russell gulch,
was found in Clear creek, about one
mile below where she was last seen.
The head and legs were considerably
bruised, which in all probability was
caused by coming in contact with the
rocks in the creek. Coroner Boyer has
ordered a post mortem examination
which will be followed by an inquest.
Foul play is suspected.

John Haines, oldest son of M. S.
Haines, was killed by the Mites, an
mine at Lafayette, Colorado, on the
21st, while pulling top coal, a large
amount of coal and rock falling and
burying him completely. The miners
uncovered his head and found him to
be alive and able to talk, but more
coal and rock fell and a large force
of men was put at work to rescue him,
which took about an hour, when he
was found to be dead.

The story that Marcus Daly intends
leaving Montana and taking up his
residence in Colorado, where he is to
build a smelter and go into the stock raising
business, is, according to Mr. Daly's
most intimate friends and associates,
without any truth. Mr. Daly is at
present in New York, but only a few
days before leaving he stated, as he
had frequently done before, that Mon-
tana would always be his home and
that he expected to spend the remain-
der of his life here and in the harness.
"I am here to stay and to work harder
than ever," he said on his return from
the East after his election as president
of the New Amalgamated Company.

Five pounds of giant powder were
explosive by Captain E. C. Hays, on
the side of Big Bull mountain for the
purpose of ascertaining the quantity
that can be safely used in the big
earthquake on the Fourth of July. The
test was entirely satisfactory. The
cartridge smoke went into the air for
hundreds of feet. The committee
in charge of the earthquake com-
plete will now go ahead and make
certain arrangements as originally
planned. The general committee for
the big celebration have adopted plans
for a big pavilion to be erected on the
Second and Victor avenues. The pavil-
ion will be the largest ever erected in
this city. Around the four sides will
be upraised seats with a capacity for
seating 1,100 people.

Assignee Chapman of the failed State
Bank of Monte Vista has just made
public the following statement of assets
and liabilities of the bank and its
two branches, the Miners' Bank of
Creede and the Farmers' Bank of
Hooper. Liabilities: Open deposits,
\$42,903.30; certificates of deposit, \$11,-
574.24; due First National Bank of
Denver, \$24,991.14; unpaid taxes,
\$780.56. Total, \$80,459.64. Assets:
Overdrafts, good, \$6,740.27; real es-
tate and fixtures, \$14,500; Chase Nat-
ional Bank, New York, \$106.19; loans
and discounts, consisting of good \$48,-
533.25; cash and cash items, \$732.70;
rents, etc. due, \$215.65. Total, \$70,-
828.07. The assignee is hopeful of
turning an early dividend. This happy
result will depend upon his ability to
make the overdrafts, real estate and
loans into cash.

Governor Richards was advised by
the War Department on the 19th that
the troops at Fort Washakie, in the
Shoshone reservation, and Yellowstone,
in the National Park, have been placed
at the disposal of the civil authorities
to aid in pursuing the Union Pacific
robbers. Deputy Marshal Morrison,
with four Yellowstone scouts, cap-
tured three men at Riverside station,
near the west limit of the park, who an-
swered the description of Curry and the
Roberts brothers. Morrison with his
Mammoth Hot Springs with his prison-
ers Tuesday, when they will be ex-
amined before Commissioner Meldrum.
Should these men not prove to be the
hold-ups, the chase will be kept up
with vigor until the robbers are run
down and captured. The robbers were
supplied by a rustler near Wall E.
K. Mountain, in the Hole-in-the-Rock
country, with fine riding horses, and
two pack animals, plenty of food and a
camp outfit.

NEWS FROM THE
WESTERN REGION.

At the present time are the following:
J. W. Blake, 1,000 head, shipped by
rail from Oregon to Montpelier, Idaho,
and trailed into Wyoming from that
place; J. K. Fitzwater, 4,000; Barker
Bros., 3,000; E. Boettcher, 14,000; W.
P. Blake, 12,000; L. P. Southworth, 20,-
000; Plate Valley, five companies, 30,-
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Editorial Association met at Glenwood
on the 23rd. At the afternoon roll-call
the following were found to be pres-
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ver; W. P. Kennedy and wife, Reve-
ville; Rife; E. Price, A. C. Newton,
Press, Denver; W. F. Kennedy and
wife, New Castle; C. O. Finch,
Journal, Castle, Wray; J. B. Pabor,
Grand Junction; C. T. Rawalt, Cham-
pion, Gunnison; J. F. Greenwaldt,
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T. S. Lawless of the Lamar Sparks,
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NEWS FROM THE
WESTERN REGION.

At the present time are the following:
J. W. Blake, 1,000 head, shipped by
rail from Oregon to Montpelier, Idaho,
and trailed into Wyoming from that
place; J. K. Fitzwater, 4,000; Barker
Bros., 3,000; E. Boettcher, 14,000; W.
P. Blake, 12,000; L. P. Southworth, 20,-
000; Plate Valley, five companies, 30,-
000 head. These sheep will nearly all
be driven over what is known as the
Lander trail and will be ranged in
various parts of the state. About 40,-
000 will be ranged in Central, 40,-
000 in the north and west, and the re-
maining Plains, and the remainder will
go to the Big Horn basin. Shepherms
of the state are apprehensive that the
advent of many sheep into the state
will result in serious overcrowding of
the ranges.

The summer session of the Colorado
Editorial Association met at Glenwood
on the 23rd. At the afternoon roll-call
the following were found to be pres-
ent: Halsey M. Rhoads, Press, Den-
ver; W. P. Kennedy and wife, Reve-
ville; Rife; E. Price, A. C. Newton,
Press, Denver; W. F. Kennedy and
wife, New Castle; C. O. Finch,
Journal, Castle, Wray; J. B. Pabor,
Grand Junction; C. T. Rawalt, Cham-
pion, Gunnison; J. F. Greenwaldt,
Tribune, Florence; Howard Russell,
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