

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

Important Information Gathered Around the Coast.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

A summary of Late Events That Are Being Done to Suit our Busy Readers.

The Valley road is erecting waiting stations at Alta and Lovell, on the Fresno and Visalia branch road.

Chauncey M. St. John, formerly of Oakland, will be given an appointment in the San Francisco custom house.

The Standard Oil Company's warehouse, at San Jose, has been burned and 500,000 gallons of oil were consumed. The loss will be \$20,000.

Fire has destroyed four frame buildings in the business center of Bendleton, Oregon. The loss was \$14,000, and the insurance amounted to \$30,000.

Gambling, which had been suppressed in Whitman county, Wash., for nearly a year, has been resumed, and a number of games are running in Colfax.

The body of W. Webber, a Kenwick boiler-maker, was found at Redding in the Sacramento River at the foot of East street. His neck was broken. A murder theory is advanced by some.

John McIntyre, a laborer 60 years old, committed suicide at San Jose by taking strychnine. He had only \$3 in money and feared that he would soon be in need of food and shelter.

Rich placer diggings have been located six miles from Dyea, Alaska, and but few miles from the coast. These were soon completely covered by the claims of miners stranded at that place.

Superior Bugg of Madera county is charged with being intoxicated while sitting as a member of the Board, and charges have been brought against him with a view of removing him from office.

J. W. Perkins of McPherson has shipped seventy-five pounds of Japanese morning glory seed to the East. The growing of flowers and vegetable seeds is one of the coming industries in this section.

The robber who was killed at Kenwick railroad station has been identified. He was J. C. Sharp, who had worked fourteen shifts for the copper company in November, quitting his job on the 26th of that month.

The City Council of Santa Rosa has instructed Mayor Jesse to name 100 citizens, who shall select fifteen free holders, to be voted for at the next general election and who, if elected, shall formulate a new charter for the city.

The delayed explosion of a blast in the Alabama mine at Jamedown resulted in the death of J. L. Simms, who came to this county less than a month ago from Southern California. He was 28 years old, unmarried, and had parents residing at Stafford, Kan.

The steamer China, which has arrived at San Francisco, from the Orient brought \$350,000 worth of opium. This is the first importation since June last, when there was \$1,000,000 worth of the drug in the warehouse.

The San Jose Power Company has taken the first step in connecting a large electric plant, similar to that at Folsom for the dissemination of power in San Jose and vicinity. It is claimed that the cost of the proposed plant will be \$300,000.

The Union-street Railway Company at Santa Rosa has bought the McDonald-street Railway Company's line, cars, horses and all. The consideration is not known. This deal puts all the street railways in the city under the same management.

Eugenio Marra a Swiss dairyman was found dead in Arroyo Grande creek at San Luis Obispo. He had been miles from his home. He is supposed to have been thrown from his horse over the embankment into the creek and broken his neck.

Easterly's winery, located about eight miles southwest of San Jose, has been totally destroyed by fire. The origin of the fire is unknown. Loss, \$13,000, with \$10,000 insurance. This is the third winery burned in the county in the last few weeks.

The Bendel-Nelson Company has organized at San Francisco for the purpose of packing, drying and preserving fruit, incorporated with a capital stock of \$100,000. The directors are J. W. Nelson, H. Bendel, Jr., W. T. Hickey, John C. Nobmann and Joseph A. Stolz.

Word has reached Kingman, Ariz., of an accident at El Dorado Canyon, a mining district, sixty miles north of that city, which resulted in the instant death of Lafayette Stinnett. He fell from his wagon and his head was crushed by the wheels. He was a well-known pioneer of Arizona.

The Pacific Mail steamship China, which arrived in San Francisco recently, made the fastest trip across the Pacific that is yet on record. She arrived fourteen days, twelve hours, eighteen minutes out from Yokohama. Her run from Honolulu was made in five days, seven hours, forty one minutes.

Property to the amount of \$2000 has been destroyed by fire at Santa Barbara. The greatest loss falls on Silas Jones, who conducts a candy store on upper State street. His loss is \$800, covered by insurance in the Royal of Liverpool. Other losses fell on the occupants of the same block and amount to \$1300.

The United States Attorney-General has directed that a bill in equity be filed against the Coal Dealers' Association of California, for violation of the anti-trust law of 1890. This

association is composed of coal dealers who have entered into combination to keep up the price of coal and drive out of the business all who do not comply with their requirements.

A successful attempt to rob the North Pacific Coast Railroad's station at Tomales, a few days since, and M. L. Schuster, the station agent lies in a precarious condition from the effects of a beating received at the hands of an unknown man. Schuster was struck a heavy blow on the back of the head and robbed of \$90 and a watch.

The trustees for the Whittier Reform School, at Whittier, are about ready to adopt plans for the improvement and enlargement of the school, made possible by the appropriation of \$100,000 for the purpose. Plans for several new buildings are nearly completed and the changes and improvements in grounds, etc., are mapped out ready for adoption.

Small houses occupied by John Patsygrove and Will Treat at Anderson, has been burned. It is supposed that the house was robbed, then set on fire. Fifty dollars and two watches left in the house are supposed to have been taken. A young man named Perry was arrested on suspicion and one of the watches was found in a bundle claimed by him.

Governor Budd has pardoned Charles H. Barker, who had been sentenced to serve six months imprisonment in the County Jail at Auburn and to pay a fine of \$1000. The fine was reduced by the Governor, and Barker will be liberated upon paying \$50. Barker is a hotel keeper at Roseville. He thrashed a rival hotel keeper and was fined by the local Justice of the Peace. After court adjourned he whipped the Justice. He was fined and sentenced. He has been in jail a month or more.

Amazon Hernandez, a Mexican woodchopper, was fatally injured near the Llagas at San Jose. He was in the habit of carrying giant powder cartridges in his pockets, as he frequently used them in this way he tripped and fell, a knife in his pocket struck against a cap, and nine explosions followed in quick succession. Hernandez was terribly mangled, and there is no hope of recovery.

The largest seizure of contraband liquor ever made in Alaska has been brought to Portland, Oregon, by the steamship George W. Elder. The seizure consisted of twenty tons of liquor and was packed in various kinds of packages for the purpose of deceiving the custom officers. Many of the packages were shipped as "baking powder," "kerosene," "turpentine," and other devices were employed to get the liquors past the custom officials. The liquor represents more than \$10,000 in value.

The approaches to the tunnel of the San Joaquin Valley Railway at Point Richmond are being prepared, but nothing has yet been decided as to the surveys between that place and Stockton. Grading has been finished for half the distance from the Kings county line to Bakersfield. It is thought that the road will be completed earlier, but it was not considered that the increased expense of construction would have been justified. The next new work will be the building of the loop of twenty miles from Visalia to the main line of the Valley Railway south of Hanford.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTES.

The Secretary of the Treasury has issued an order reducing the compensation of employees in the San Francisco Mint whose salaries are not fixed by statute. Six-dollar-a-day men will be reduced to \$5. The total annual saving will be about \$40,000.

President McKinley will recommend the establishment of a department of commerce and industry. A message urging Congress to provide for it is to be sent in shortly after the holidays. The new department as outlined by its friends, is not limited by any specific confinements. The head of the department is to be a cabinet officer and is to draw a salary of \$8000 a year.

The Comptroller of the Currency's certificate authorizing the following national bank to begin business has been issued: The Nevada National Bank of San Francisco, Cal. Capital, \$3,000,000; president, Isaiah W. Hellman; cashier, D. B. Davidson.

Nothing is known in official circles at Washington of any overtures made by our Government for the purchase of a portion of Northwestern Greenland islands as a coaling and naval station and it can be set down as an unfounded statement. Naval authorities say they have absolutely no use for a coaling station in that part of the globe.

It is announced that President McKinley, who is considering the qualifications of several persons for the office of director of the twelfth census, will very likely appoint E. J. North of Boston, who is the secretary of the National association of Wool Growers. He was connected with the eleventh census.

A resolution has been unanimously passed by the Senate authorizing the postponement of the sale of the Kansas Pacific Railway until such time as the conditions of the road could be examined by the Senate. Acting upon this instruction Attorney-General McKenna secured the postponement, and the sale of the road will be postponed for sixty days.

Mr. Anthony Hope once coached undergraduates. From the age of 15 he practically supported himself by his scholarships and exhibitions. In regard to his call to the bar Mr. Hope told an interviewer that his first "case" was at Aylesbury, where the judge commissioned him to defend some ruffians who were indicted for a murderous assault on a policeman. "They were all acquitted," he says cheerfully, "and very properly so."

A drawing master who had been working a pupil with contemptuous remarks about his deficiency of skill in the use of the pencil ended by saying: "If you were to draw me, for example, tell me what part you would draw first."

The pupil, with a significant meaning in his eye, looked up to his teacher's face and quietly said: "Your neck, sir."—Pick Me Up.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

Helpful Suggestions For the Agriculturists.

HINTS THAT ARE INTERESTING.

Some Good Advice for the Horticulturist—A Budget of Knowledge That May Prove Beneficial.

The German Kohlmeise.

One of the district Commissioners of the Oregon State Board of Horticulture is engaged in collecting funds to be expended for the importation of the Kohlmeise, a bird which in Germany is known as the enemy of the codlin moth. This insect is the greatest hindrance to the successful cultivation of the apple in the warm valleys of this State, hence it is that a fruit which is at all times popular and ordinarily profitable is neglected in California, except in the coast counties or at some altitude in the Sierra where it is either too damp or too cold for the codlin moth to exist. In this valley, for example, although the moth is admirably adapted for the growing of apples, they are not grown on a large scale because of the time and expense involved in fighting this pest. The horticulturists finding it more profitable to give their attention to other varieties of fruit. If, however, the German bird does all that is claimed for it, its introduction would result in a large increase in the acreage devoted to apple trees.

The State Board of Horticulture of Oregon having determined to experiment with these birds, by sending a party to the States to see whether they are as destructive of the codlin moth as reported. In speaking of this subject, which should interest the fruit-growers of California fully as much as it does those of Oregon, the Oregon Agriculturist remarks that C. F. Pfleger, a well-known authority on birds, says that the Kohlmeise is one of the most strictly insectivorous birds known. It feeds exclusively on insects. There are from two to three broods a year and from ten to twelve birds in a brood. It is not a migratory bird, but remains in the same locality winter and summer. It is about the same size as the chickadee and is extremely active. There is another closely allied bird named blaumeise, which is almost equally valuable as an insect destroyer. While the primary object in importing the Kohlmeise is to destroy the larva of the codlin moth, the Agriculturist believes that it will prove of great value also in destroying other insects, as it is said to vary its food in Germany by feeding on certain scale insects. The subject is certainly worthy of the attention of the fruit-growers of California.

Fruitfulness of the Olive.

There has been much complaint regarding the bearing of olives in several places in California, says Prof. A. J. Cook. In some cases large orchards of mature trees have been nearly or entirely barren for years in succession. There are beyond doubt three reasons for this lack of fruitfulness, insect attack, lack of pruning and the planting of only one variety in a place. Owing to the farmers' institutes better methods are being practiced in all lines of fruit culture, and the olive comes in for its share in the general improvement. I have seen more effective work fighting scale, not only on the olive but on all orchard trees infested, the last autumn, than was done for all the three previous years put together. This will tell, and we shall see the effects in more and better olives. The same may be said of pruning. The olive orchards are being pruned as never before in Southern California. The Pithian olive orchard at Carpinteria has been very productive the past few years. The manager prunes very thoroughly and attributes much of his success to this fact. He is an expert and his opinion should not be lightly considered.

Deciduous Pruning.

While pruning is simple enough, one should have some practical experience under the guidance of one qualified to instruct, before attempting to prune his own orchard. For, in fact, to direct others, says J. H. Ramsay of Woodside.

Another thing one should bear in mind, is that because a man is a professional gardener, it is no argument in favor of his knowledge as a pruner of fruit trees. He may round it off, giving a symmetrical appearance, similar to a cypress hedge, but there are other points to be considered in pruning a fruit tree. I have seen some orchards ruined in this manner. Personally I would as soon take a man who had never pruned, if blessed with ordinary intelligence, for in two or three days I could make him understand what is wanted, and such a man will barely cut too severely on a tree; they usually have to be sent back to take more wood out.

As to the time of pruning, I would advise beginning as early as possible after the trees have shed their leaves in the fall, as it is an advantage to have this work, as well as the burning of brush advanced before ploughing begins, for the two operations conflict, and if weeds get a start in spring, as they should in all orchards (they being valuable as fertilizers), it would be more expensive gathering brush. At all events, it should be finished before the sap begins to flow, the tree thus being spared the shock of bleeding.

The time for marketing poor fruit at a profit has passed, and the man who now makes the money is the one who raises the large fruit. The one you cannot do continually without due regard to the care of your orchard, pruning being a very important factor of this duty, but one should not be unmindful either of the necessity of thorough cultivation, the two being essential to the welfare of the tree. Bringing an orchard into bearing is no sinecure, as perhaps many of you can attest, but unfortunately it is often realized too late, and many an orchard suffered to go to rack and ruin, but perhaps for the fact that those who continue in the business should feel thankful, because if all orchards planted came to maturity it might have a very depressing effect upon the fruit market.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Condensed Telegraphic Reports of Late Events.

BRIEF SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.

Budget of News For Easy Digestion—All Parts of the Country Represented—Interesting Items.

Mason & Cobb, shoe manufacturers of Auburn, Maine, have assigned. Liabilities, \$60,000; assets, \$76,000.

Wages of employes on the Union Pacific railroad have been reduced, the reduction amounting to about 30 per cent of their former wages.

Preparations are being made to start the tub mills of the Oil Well Supply Company at Pittsburg, Pa. Fifteen hundred men will be employed.

The wholesale grocery house of Noyes, Hubbard & Co., at Charleston, W. Va., has been destroyed by fire. Loss, \$125,000, with an insurance of \$70,000.

It has developed that the big coal-selling combination of the anthracite railroads is only part of a vast project for the control of the entire coal industry in the East.

Marous Smeasser, a young man living in Clayton, a suburb of St. Louis, shot his sweetheart, Miss Katie Dossbach, daughter of an ex-Sheriff, and then blew out his own brains.

The towboat Hotspur went over the dam at lock No. 4 on the Monongahela river, at Pittsburg, Pa., and was completely wrecked. The crew of eleven men were rescued with difficulty.

Three desperate men who plotted to kidnap Dr. D. T. Potter, a wealthy citizen and ex-Mayor of Memphis, Tenn., in order to force him to sign a check for \$15,000, are under arrest.

Will and John Livingston, brothers, of Blue Creek mines, Alabama, quarreled over a trivial matter while drinking and the former shot the latter to death. The murderer is 18 years old.

Two prisoners, Frank Barbin and Harry McCallum, colored, attempted suicide at about the same time in the penitentiary at Cadwell, N. J. McCallum is dead. Barbin will recover.

James W. Allen of the baking firm of Winslow & Allen, Worcester, Mass., died recently in that city of pneumonia, aged 37 years. He was United States Consul at Zanibar from 1892 to 1895.

The Missouri Electric Light and Power Company and the Edison Electric Company have consolidated at St. Louis, Mo. The new concern will, it is stated, issue \$4,000,000 of gold-bearing bonds.

Harry English, a prisoner in the jail at Ysleta, Tex., was burned to death at that place. He attempted to burn his way out of jail, and the wooden structure was burned before he could be rescued.

The business houses in the center of St. Louis, Mo., were shaken to their foundations by an explosion of dynamite used in trying to raise the sunken towboat Dolphin, which went down during the tornado.

The Queen mine has closed down at Negaunee, Mich., indefinitely, throwing 350 men out of employment. In case the company can induce owners to reduce the royalties, operations will probably be resumed.

James Noble, who was private secretary to United States Senator Thomas Corwin, died recently in Cincinnati, Ohio, of old age. For the last thirty years he had been the confidential bookkeeper of the Longworth estate in this city.

While skating at Rifton, New York, on Wallkill creek, New York, Mrs. V. Vanberger, aged 33 years, broke through the ice. Edward McMichael went to her rescue, crawling along the ice, but the ice broke under him and he was precipitated into the water. Both were drowned.

Graec and Annie Mason, whose parents live near Franklin, Pa., were left alone in their home during the evening. The former fell into the grate fire and her clothing ignited. She was burned to death. In trying to save the life of her sister, Annie was also badly burned, and it is believed she cannot recover.

A. C. Allison of Sunbury, Pa., convicted last March of fraudulent use of the mails and sentenced to serve eight months in the eastern penitentiary, has been pardoned by President McKinley as a Christmas gift. It is feared that the pardon came too late, Allison is lying in the hospital of the penitentiary critically ill from consumption.

The long-standing differences between O'Brien & Clark and Brown & Howard & Co., contractors for the new Croton aqueduct, in New York, were money claimed for extra work on the aqueduct, have been settled by the Corporation Council, the contractors accepting a voluntary judgment of \$700,000 from the city, in return for which they agree to relinquish all claims, which in the aggregate amounted to \$10,000,000.

Judge Jones of Stockton has denied the motion for a new trial in the suit of Harry Vizelech against the Southern Pacific Company. Vizelech was given a verdict for \$15,000 for the loss of a leg while engaged in helping on a train at the depot. The defendant denied that Vizelech was employed by any one authorized to employ help on the road. Judge Paterson of San Francisco won the verdict six months ago.

Eighty per cent of the edge tool manufacturers in the United States have consolidated their interests, and have agreed for the erection of a new plant near Charrut, about forty miles south of Pittsburg, Pa. The concern will be known as the American Ax and Tool Company, and will have a capital stock of \$2,000,000. It will employ over 3000 skilled workmen.

Hutton Perry, a negro, was hanged at Washington, Beaufort county, North Carolina, for assaulting Annie Smith, a white girl. Four thousand people saw the execution.

Louis Ley, clothier of Cleveland, Ohio, has assigned. Assets, \$16,000; liabilities, \$30,000.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The relations of the Powers in the Orient continue critical.

The Canadian Parliament has been called to meet February 3.

Great Britain is attempting to stay the progress of Russia in the Orient.

The British steamer Lamberts Point arrived at St. Johns, N. F., with her cargo of cotton on fire.

Charles Harrison, Radical member of the English Parliament for Plymouth since 1895, is dead.

Russia, according to a dispatch from Shanghai, China, is rearing temporary headquarters for 10,000 troops at Port Arthur.

Senor Antonio Valdes Cuevas of Chile has succeeded in forming a new Cabinet, he taking the portfolio of Minister of the Interior.

Gen. Gregorio Castro has been appointed Minister of War of Uruguay, in succession to Gen. Leperer, who resigned the Ministry of War and Marine.

The Victorian duties on woolen and silk materials at Melbourne, wearing apparel and woolen piece goods, will be reduced 5 per cent after February next.

Richard Arthur Prince, the super who assassinated William Terris, the actor, has been formally committed for trial at the Bow-street Police Station at London.

A special dispatch from Vienna says the Arabs along the Persian Gulf, notably at Basrah, Burmah and El Palif, have revolted and the troops are on their way there.

The Russian Government has entered into communication with the Government of New South Wales with the object of procuring shipments of meat to Vladivostok, Siberia.

The Earl of Crewe, London, while hunting with the Cheshire hounds, was thrown from his horse, sustaining a fracture of the collar-bone and serious injuries about the head.

A number of earthquake shocks, increasing in intensity, have occurred around Smyrna, Asia Minor. Already considerable damage has been done, and some persons have been killed and many injured.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, may soon have a line of steamers to the Klondike. Captains James Farquharson, now in England in connection with the scheme has authority to purchase suitable steamers.

Le Bulletin de Commerce of Montreal, Canada, announces that a French capitalist of good standing has put in a tender with the Dominion Government for the \$50,000 subsidy for a Franco-Canadian steamship line.

At a meeting of the British Columbia lumber men held recently at Vancouver, B. C., a resolution was passed asking the Canadian Government to place a duty on shingles and lumber, unless the United States place them on the free list.

Aguinaldo and the insurgent chiefs of the Philippine Islands, emigrating to China under an arrangement agreed to by Marshal Primo Rivera, Governor-General of the Philippines, where the peace conditions were signed on December 16th.

The results of the balloting by the striking engineers in London upon the proposals made by the masters have been published. The strikers voted by fifty to one against accepting the terms of the employers. This means that the strike will continue.

It is asserted that the newly formed Russo-Korean Bank in St. Petersburg will organize a company to extend a railroad to Port Arthur, China. The Russian vice-president of the Eastern Chinese railway will start for Manchuria in February.

A change of cabinet has taken place in Japan. Count Matsukata, the premier, and Admiral the Marquis Saigo Tsugumichi, Minister of Marine, have resigned. It is probable that Marquis Ito will be the new premier. The diet has been dissolved.

It is asserted that owing to his inability the medical attendants of Prince Bismarck at Berlin have advised him to abstain from all work and excitement for some weeks to come. Dr. Schweininger believes in the possibility of a cure, but not a rapid one.

The last of the series of bull fights by Mazatini given in the city of Mexico was attended by 7000 people. Tomas Mazatini narrowly escaped with his life, being tossed by an infuriated bull and gored in the hand. Ten horses were killed and six bulls, the usual number.

A fire broke out in the dry goods store of Jermyn & Perry, High street, King's Lynn (Lynn-Regis), Norfolk, England. The local fire engine collapsed and the flames spread rapidly, soon destroying a number of adjoining business houses. The total damage is estimated at £150,000.

In view of the anti-Semitic riots in Roumania a law has been enacted prohibiting meetings of the Jews. Several ministers of foreign countries have signified their intentions of referring demands for indemnity in behalf of their respective subjects who have suffered on account of the riots.

Yakob Sargis of Oorahish, Persia, now in Cincinnati Ohio, giving talks on Persia and Armenia, has just received a letter from friends in his Persian home, informing him that a band of raiders from Koordistan had sacked all the inhabitants of a Persian Christian town, 800 souls, near Salsia, Persia.

Comte Anatole le Mercier, senior member of the French Chamber of Deputies, is dead. Comte le Mercier was born June 25, 1820. He was one of the seven deputies from Charente-Inférieure, personally representing the first division of Saintes. He was a descendant of Le Mercier, who figured in France during the Revolution.

On the advice of Police Surgeons, Charles Helmbold, son of the late Dr. Helmbold of New York, who was arrested in London, charged with having threatened to kill United States Consul-General Osborne, has been taken to an asylum for the insane. It has been discovered that Helmbold had already been confined six weeks in an asylum under the assumed name of F. C. Evans.

BENEATH THE SEA.

A Romantic Combat Between Divers Many Yards Under Water.

Some years ago, upon the coast of France, there occurred one of those romantic episodes that seem to belong to the realm of fiction. A vessel had foundered within sight of port—gone down with all her cargo.

Two divers were sent to report the cause of the disaster and the prospect of raising the goods.

One of these represented the insurance brokers, who had instituted the investigation, and the other the captain and owners of the vessel.

The brokers' man touched bottom first, and found himself on a bed of white sand. He was fortunate enough almost immediately to discover the wreck, and at once climbed the crags upon which the vessel rested. Investigation showed him that there had been foul play, for an auger hole was plainly visible in the hull of the ship.

He had turned to point out his discovery to the other diver, who was now by his side, when he felt himself suddenly clutched by the waist and dragged down upon the sand.

Here his assailant murderously attempted to break the glass of his helmet, but the assailant man fought desperately for his life.

He firmly believed himself to be in the clutch of a madman, and for a few minutes the water was thick with sand that flew up round the combatants. In the end the first diver was worsted, and his assailant forced him to lose his hold upon his life.

Death seemed imminent, but the diver's wits did not forsake him. Finding that he was no match for his adversary, he fell back, apparently swooned, and in this condition the other man prepared to leave him, cut off from communication with the upper world.

He gave the signal to be drawn up, but as he began to ascend the apparently swooned man sprang to his feet and clutched the rising man's legs with a firm grip, and the two were hauled to the surface together.

Then, indeed, the ready-witted diver fainted in earnest, and before he regained consciousness his enemy had escaped to land, and when captured was attempting to leave the country.

At the trial he explained the reason of his conduct. It was the old story of grey hair being new and moderately amusing, not to say instructive. We borrow it from the Cleveland Plain Dealer, which says it is told of a certain Cleveland family of high social aspirations.

Some time last summer they let it be generally understood that they were going to the seaside. At the last moment something prevented them from going on the day fixed upon, but they had advertised their departure so thoroughly that they concluded they must make it appear that they were actually gone. They dismissed their help, all save a Swedish girl, sent away the horses, bolted and barred the front of the house, and of course pulled down all the shades.

Then they retired to the rear apartments until such time as they could start—after dark, of course—on their journey.

Twenty-four hours passed, and they were still there. Of course they imagined that the appearance of the house would warn away callers, but a stranger to say, they had one. She was a lady of somewhat absent-minded ways, and rang the bell so long that at last the girl, carefully coached, was sent to the door.

"Is Mrs. Blank at home?" inquired the caller.

"Mrs. Blank told me to say she was by seaside," said the honest girl.

"Oh, gone away?" said the visitor.

"No, not gone away—just by seaside."

"Well, she had to go away to get to the seaside, didn't she?"

"The girl looked puzzled."

"I don't know, I go ask."

She was gone some little time, and when she came back her face was very red.

"It's all right," said she. "She was here by seaside yet."

"But I don't understand."

"Well, if you don't understand, I lose my job."

"Oh, then I guess I do understand," said the friend of the family, and she went down the steps.

Blind People and the Bicycle.

"Not many persons, I fancy, are aware that blind people are able to cycle," said a London bicycle manufacturer.

"I know of several blind people, however, who, since the craze set in, have taken lessons and learned to ride—surprisingly well, too. But it is less astonishing than you think, remembering how acute the other senses of the blind become, and that many ordinary cyclists can ride blindfolded for short distances. We have built seven machines for blind customers this year, constructing them specially low, for easier mounting. I know a blind gentleman who travels for a provincial cycle firm, and rides a tandem. He is accompanied by a friend who can see, but quite often rides on the front seat and steers himself by his friend's instructions. Another blind gentleman, a customer of mine, thinks nothing of a thirty miles' run."

Method in His Madness.

"Why do you always keep praising Harper's performances on the violin and encouraging him to keep on? I should think his continual squeaking would drive you mad." "Hush! Don't let him hear. He has for a long time thought that he could really do better on the cornet, and I'm trying to keep him down to the lesser of two evils."—Cleveland Leader.

Cat Brings Up Pups.

A cat in a Chicago dog hospital has brought up a family of five pups.

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