

Nansen now wants to go on a hunt for the south pole. Why doesn't he take something easy and find the Venezuela line?

Reading may make a full man, as Bacon says, but merely devouring papers and books, without thought, makes him no fuller than a goat.

The number of scorchers who are injured in accidents is ridiculously out of proportion to the number of persons they injure. Something ought to be done to equalize the damage.

The city of Glasgow, Scotland, has set a mark for other municipalities to shoot at. It will levy no taxes after the 1st of January, 1897, but derive its entire income from public works in its possession.

The rage for bicycles is as great in France as in England and America, but France has to buy a great many from England. The American wheels are the lightest and best in the world, and Frenchmen are finding it out.

During the past 35 years, \$66 fire insurance companies have gone out of business. There are now 243 American and foreign companies doing business in this country, and the guaranteed losses amount to over \$15,000,000.

Galveston is going to be the New York of Texas. Fine elevators are going up, ocean vessels are coming there for freight. St. Louis wheat exporters will export their wheat that way. The southwestern railroads all favor Galveston connections. Last year \$1,000,000 worth of coal and gold was mined in that State; there are also numerous beds of lignite there.

The remarkable thing about most of the accidents that happen to bicyclists is that the injured is not a novice on the wheel, but generally an experienced if not an expert rider. The novices seem to have sense enough to keep out of danger's way. But as soon as one becomes accustomed to the wheel he begins to overestimate his ability to dodge danger when he gets into its path. Witness the foolhardiness of the youths who make a practice of riding through the tunnels between the cable cars.

If Capt. Sverdrup's account of the voyage of Nansen's ship, the Fram, is correct, there will be no lack of volunteers for service when the Fram is ready to start again for the north pole. Capt. Sverdrup says "the principal work was to take regular observations, sleep and eat." There's a program that appeals to the average man. Who wouldn't be willing to spend a few months or more in that sort of an enterprise? Almost anybody in these hard times, even those who at the present moment are actively engaged in heroically saving their country, would jump at a chance to take regular observations, sleep and eat. For, after all, that is about what life amounts to, when you look at it from the latter end and reckon up its value.

An argument in support of the reorganization of the personnel of the United States navy, a bill for which was introduced at the last term of Congress, is furnished by the fate of two of the four engineers of the warship Indiana. During the recent heated term these men were overcome while the fleet was maneuvering and are now in a state of physical collapse. While the change in naval methods makes the duties of line officers of secondary importance, they are still the recipients of superior consideration and rank, the engineers, occupying the most trying and important post on the ship, having only a "relative rank." The line officers, with comparatively little to do, outnumber the engineers four to one, and the result is that naval engineers are constantly breaking down under the strain and worry of their exacting duties.

Now that the young Czar and his Czarina have made a beginning of their travels, they should make up their minds not to stop within the limits of effete Europe. They should push on, westward in the track of Bishop Berkeley's justly celebrated star of empire and pay a visit to the United States. What tremendous benefits the youthful autocrat, by the slightest whim of whose boyish and not particularly powerful brain the happiness and the lives of millions of human beings may be affected, would receive if he should pass a few months or even weeks in this republic of enlightened freedom! He would doubtless feel as if he were in another world, so opposed are the ideas which prevail here to those to which he is accustomed; but he could not fail to absorb something of the spirit of equality, though never so slightly, by the operation of the theory of the rights of man. In that case the history of his reign would be vastly different from what it will be if he spends all his life in the close atmosphere of absolutism he is breathing now.

The cheerful man who thinks practical jokes funny has turned up in Chicago. One night a lot of people he knew were driving home in a coach from Evanston, and he and another man conceived the execrable idea of "holding them up" on the road, after the fashion of the late R. Turpin and Black Bart. They put the idea into execution in the most approved style. When the coach approached their place of concealment they stepped out of the shade

ow of a tree, called to the driver to halt, and when he had done so, pointed a revolver at the passengers and commanded them to hand over their valuables. The demand was complied with, and it was not until that operation was complete that the amateur highwaymen disclosed their identity. In the meantime, however, the ladies in the party had been frightened almost into hysterics and some of the men, though of course they will never acknowledge it, were greatly terrified. This merry conceit naturally excites the liveliest admiration for the genius of the mad wag who devised it, and he will be the envy and pride of his kind. But if some member of the party who was not in the joke had had a revolver the representation might have been made still more realistic and the consequences serious. There are jokes which are better left unplayed.

The outcome of the yacht race at Toledo, so far from discouraging American yachtsmen, ought to put them on their mettle, with a firm determination to succeed next time. The Venecor's two defeats, while apparently decisive, were not disastrous nor humiliating. In the first race, which was called off on account of the failure to travel the course in the specified time, the Chicago boat made but a poor showing, and in the contest of Tuesday she was badly beaten in a light and duky wind. This is no surprise, for it has been understood all along that the Canada was the better boat under such conditions. A fair-weather boat, taking the water easily and carrying an ample spread of canvas, she does her best work in a wind before which the American vessel is unable to attain any considerable speed. The Venecor Wednesday showed several points of superiority, and had it not been for the heavy handicap placed upon her would have won, her actual time over the course being less than that of the Canada. She was not, however, sufficiently faster than the Canada to overcome her handicap and the trophy goes across the border. It is still hard to say whether the Venecor might not have been better handled in the first race, where she was so badly defeated. She seems to have been sailed with fairly good judgment. In both cases, however, it has been made evident that, good as she is, Venecor is not good enough. If the Americans are to maintain their superiority on the lakes, as they have on the Atlantic, they must make a faster boat. Now that the prize has gone to Canada, the American yachtsmen and builders should bend their efforts in all honest rivalry to surpass their opponents over the border. In the course of a few years this annual struggle will have so awakened patriotic sentiment on both sides that every race will be undertaken with enthusiasm and fought for with the utmost energy. This country has the established reputation for making boats which are fast and seaworthy and not mere skimming dishes. Let the lake yachtsmen take heart and go to work to uphold that reputation.

Some eastern people, whose business it is to write and talk about art, are again worrying over the familiar subject of the cupidity of foreign actors and singers. They point out that the inspiration which leads Mme. Bernhardt to sob and shriek on the stage does not blind her to the seductive beauties of a check, and that Mme. Calve would not fall twice a week upon the stage, with the cold damp of death upon her brow, if there were any doubt of receiving her comfortable allowance of \$1,200 from the management at the close of the performance. Not only do the illustrious tragedians and singers demand contracts for the payment of their salaries, but lately some of them—the most inspired and ethereal of the lot—have caused to be inserted in these contracts a clause that next year they shall be paid in gold. Which may all go to show a mercenary nature; but actresses and actors and piano thumpers are not the only people who make it a business policy to take all they can get. The rule of trade, as a New York millionaire put it, is to buy cheap and sell as dear as you can. The foreign artists sell dear, and while it may not exalt their calling in the minds of the public, they are doing what would be done by many of their critics if they had the chance. The whole trouble arises from the misconception which supposes that an artist is a spiritual-minded being, with his head perpetually bumping the stars and his thoughts far and away above the gross question of dollars. This idea is a relic of the belief that a man known as a "genius" merely has to sit down in a trance and let the genius trickle through his fingers. The truth is that, at the present time, most artists, actors, singers, poets and authors work deliberately and for a well-known purpose, fame being part of their object and money being another. And there is nothing to show that William Shakespeare did not have the same views or would have neglected to take a high reward for a play if he could get it in place of a poor one. The world has heard altogether too much flub-dub about genius and its divinely superlative eccentricities.

High Mountain Climbing. Aconcagua, the highest peak on the western hemisphere, is to be attempted again this fall by Mr. E. A. Fitzgerald, who explored the New Zealand Alps. If he succeeds in getting to the top, which is 23,200 feet above sea level, he will beat the highest mountain climbing record, Sir W. M. Conway's 22,600 feet ascent of Pioneer Peak in the Himalayas. Dr. Gussfeldt has tried Aconcagua, but got into trouble with his guides and had to turn back 2,000 feet from the summit. Mr. Fitzgerald will have in his party the Swiss guide Zurbirgen, who accompanied him in New Zealand and was with Conway in the Himalayas.

FATHER KNEIPP'S WATER CURE

Man Who Has Caused New Yorkers to Walk Bare-Footed.

The man who has caused hundreds of persons in bare feet to run about the New York parks in the early morning is the Rev. Fr. Sebastian Kneipp of Worrishofen, Bavaria, Germany. It is quite certain that Fr. Kneipp has made for himself a world-wide fame, and has worked some wonderful cures if only one-half of the stories told are true. For these air and water and sunshine get all the credit, as well as all the pay, if there is any, for Fr. Kneipp gets nothing except his stipend as a priest in the church. The charitably inclined contribute sufficient to pay the expenses of the famous water cure.

When Sebastian Kneipp started in life at Stefansreid, on May 27, 1821, it was with a frail body, and before he had finished school he was told by his physician that he would die with consumption before he was 30 years old. His father caused him to become a weaver, in which trade he continued until he reached his majority, when he turned to the church and to medicine. He studied theology and himself, and concluded he could remove his bodily ailments. In 1848 he began self-treatment, on lines laid down by him, with the result of restoring himself to perfect health.

Then he began treating the country folk about him, and so great was his success that his reputation began to extend, and many persons came from far and near to take his treatment. For thirty years he continued his successful work, without pay, and then wrote his book, entitled "My Water Cure," which introduced him to the entire world. During these years he attended to all patients personally, and gave them baths with his own hands, in the little building, now become historic, and known as the "Washing Kitchen." Then so great were the demands on the time of the good father that the "Kneipp Society," or the "Kneipp Verein," as the Germans call it, was formed, and it, supported by charity, takes the charge of the cure.

Fr. Kneipp's fame had reached Rome, and two years ago the Pope sent for him to visit and minister to his ailments, which arose from a disordered stomach. The priest obeyed and the Pope was restored to health.

From the humble beginning the cure is now an immense institution, with a great five-story sanitarium, and all conveniences, with twelve physicians in charge ministering to the needs of 1,200 patients at a time. These patients come from all parts of the earth, and when they return home they carry the teachings of the institution with them.

Fr. Kneipp sees every patient and prescribes for him without asking questions, or making examination other than seeing his face. He seems to know from the patient's appearance what is necessary.

The cures are all worked by the application of water, air and sunshine. Everything is done gently and gradually. Baths are given to a portion of the body at a time. Short walks are prescribed first. Clothing of open texture to admit air and sunshine is worn, and feet and legs are only partially bared at first. Sandals to protect the soles from rough roads, and covering about one-half of the feet, are first worn. Then, after a few days, the patient can wear simply a sole with a strap to hold it in place. And then he can go with bare feet, and after a while wade in snow with beneficial effect.

No medicine is prescribed other than simple herb teas. No alcohol is allowed to patients, and but little meat. Other than this, there is no limit to plain food.—New York Herald.

Red Sea Miracle. It is a well-known fact that at certain times of the year Link River, a stream a mile and a quarter long, which connects the great water systems above and below this point, becomes almost dry. This state of affairs, however, lasts, as a rule, but a few hours, during which time people have been known to walk across the river, 300 feet wide, without getting their feet wet. The bottom of the river has been dug out in many places by the action of the water, forming large potholes, and when the river becomes dry these holes are filled with trout, which are left stranded. At such times it is a common occurrence to see men and boys knocking the fish on the head with clubs. There are many traditions regarding this phenomenon among the Indians here, but the real cause of the low water in the river is

the action of the wind. The course of the stream is southeast, and the high winds which prevail in the spring and fall are from the south, and blow up the river. The outlet from the upper lake being small, the force of the wind keeps the water back in the big lake, causing the river to become very low.—Klamath (Ore.) Express.

SAVED BY HER BIG SLEEVE. A Lady's Narrow Escape from Being Fatally Bitten by a Copperhead. Balloon sleeves, ribbed with stays of whalebone, saved a young lady at West Point a few days ago from being fatally bitten by a copperhead snake. The young lady, Miss Florence Sears, of New York, visited West Point with a number of friends and while leading the party on the mountain side overlooking the training ground of the young soldiers she stooped to pick a bunch of wild flowers. As she was about grasping the flowers she heard a startling, hissing sound. Not realizing what the danger was she threw up her right arm to ward off some unseen peril. In a moment a copperhead snake

struck at her from beneath a loose rock just above where she was standing. Miss Sears saw the reptile as it struck at her. It was too late to jump back, and the arm that she had thrown upward caught the blow. It saved her face from injury, and the balloon sleeves of her waist almost baffled the snake. But the strike of the poisonous reptile was a vigorous one. The sharp teeth and fangs tore through the light cloth and hooked in the whalebone stays. As the reptile's weight dragged it down, it tore the sleeve and the fangs scratched along the skin from shoulder to elbow. The incisions, however, were not deep, and the deadly poison, it is believed, did not enter the victim's veins.

At Miss Sears' feet was a large stone. She was still bending over when the snake struck her. She picked up the stone and crushed the snake's head before it could gather itself for another strike. When she had bravely done this without uttering a scream, her courage vanished. She gave one cry and fell fainting across the dead snake.

TO FIND DIRECTION. With a Watch a North and South Line May Be Fixed. Few of the many persons who carry watches are aware of the fact that they are always provided with a compass, with which, when the sun is shining, they can determine a north and south line. All one has to do is to point the hour hand to the sun, and south is exactly half way between the hour and the figure 12 on the watch. For example, suppose it is 9 o'clock in the morning. Follow the rule given above and we will find the south as indicated below. Prolong this line across the face of the watch and you have a north and south line, and from this any point of the compass may be determined. This may seem strange, but the reason is plain. While the sun is passing over 180 degrees (from east to west) the hour hand of the watch passes over 360 degrees (from 6 o'clock to 6 o'clock). Consequently the angular movement of the sun in one hour corresponds to the angular movement of the hour hand in half an hour. Hence if holding the watch horizontal we point the hour hand toward the sun the line from the pivot of the hands to a point midway between the hour hand and 12 o'clock will point to the south. Of course, the watch must be set to correct local time; if it is set to standard time the difference between local, or real, and standard time should be ascertained and allowance made therefor.

Infant Alarm. A French inventor has devised a curious electrical alarm for infants. It consists of a microphone circuit breaker placed near the head of the child in its cradle and connected with an electric bell. A cry from the child will actuate the instrument and will thus cause the bell to ring, awakening the attention of mother or nurse. "Mudger" feels sure his new "Romeo and Juliet" will make a hit. "What are the high lights?" "Juliet dives off the balcony in her bloomers and they elope on their wheels."—Chicago Record.

ABOUT PALMS.

There Were Very Few in This Country Forty Years Ago.

The wonderful aesthetic progress of the people of the United States is illustrated by the fact that forty years ago there were but six fan palms, the kind from which ordinary fans are

made, in this country. By that wonderful geometrical process of which nature is so lavish, they have borne seed and given forth the principle of life to 3,000,000, the number in pots today; of the fifty varieties of palms there are five kinds that adorn the homes of our people. The other variety have chiefly a botanical interest.

There is the Bourbon fan palm, the commonest variety; the wax palm, a long, slender-leaved plant, resembling the feathers in a big chief's war bonnet; the Blackburn palm; the "Four-

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Lord Salisbury is an enthusiastic scientific amateur in electrical matters. R. P. Keating, who died in Virginia City, Nev., last week, left a mining fortune of between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000.

A college chum of Tom Watson says that the Populist nominee for Vice President was the hardest student he ever saw. Signor Tomagno, the tenor, it is said will leave the stage and become a farmer at the close of the next operatic season.

J. H. Davis, the leader of the Texas Populists, lacks only one inch of being seven feet tall. He is called "Cyclone" Davis from his tremendous voice and breezy style of oratory.

The late Lord Lilford first heard of the murder of Lincoln from a scrap of a Spanish newspaper found in the nest of a kite near Aranjuez, Spain. The Prince of Wales' celebrated "Norwich Gates," at Sandringham, are considered the finest specimens in the kingdom of wrought iron.

Napoleon had beautiful hands, and was very proud of them, often contemplating them with a self-satisfied air. He never, however, save when military etiquette required it, wore gloves. Edwin Lord Weeks, the Boston artist, who was recently appointed a chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France, has lived in Paris for twenty years.

Elizabeth Seward, of Denver, the only woman bill poster in the United States, employs from eight to ten men, and is assisted by her 22-year-old daughter. Ex-Premier Crispi is undergoing a course of mud baths near Padua. Besides suffering from gout he is afflicted with weakness of the spine, and is likewise almost entirely blind.

Miss Ellen Arthur, a daughter of the late President Arthur, has just arrived in this country after an extended trip in the old country. She will reside at her old home in Albany. Miss Cornelia Sorabji, the first lady lawyer in India, who appeared to defend some persons accused of manslaughter, before the sessions judge of Puna, had the satisfaction of seeing her clients acquitted.

Hans Warner, of Wisconsin, is dead. He was Secretary of State from 1878 to 1882 and could have been Governor when Jerry Rusk was first elected to that office had he not generously stood aside in order to permit the latter to be honored by his party.

The late Prof. Whitney, of Harvard, had a remarkable woman for his wife. She is best known as the author of the interesting narrative of the burning of the Ursuline convent school in Charleston. Their only daughter married Thomas Allen, the Boston artist.

Newton F. Hurst, 24 years old, is a grocer's clerk in Buffalo and gets \$5 a week wages. Some time ago he invented a car-coupler, and last week he received a letter from a manufacturing firm offering him \$30,000 in cash and a royalty on all couplers sold for his invention.

Scott Hayes, a son of ex-President Rutherford B. Hayes, is connected with a prominent electrical company in Cleveland. Not long ago he was a party to a civil suit, in which he was represented as counsel by State Senator Garfield of Ohio, a son of ex-President James A. Garfield. The son of the ex-president won the case.

Didn't Know It Was Loaded.



McScorer—My baby has had the wind colic for two days. Sickleface—What caused the trouble? McScorer—The poor kid tried to cut its teeth on my pneumatic tire.

The Care of Children's Teeth. The care of the teeth cannot be begun too early. If a child loses those of the first set prematurely the jaw contracts, there being nothing to prevent it from so doing; the second teeth have not space to stand properly and are crowded. Particles of food lodging between the teeth cause them to decay early. It is a wise precaution to teach a child to pass a thread of silk or dental floss between the teeth after eating, as well as to brush them regularly. Salt and water is a good antiseptic, and answers for a dentifrice as well as many more elaborate and more expensive preparations.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Paper Pipes. It is claimed that paper-pulp water pipes have been tried in London with success. Besides being durable and inexpensive, they are free from the usual corroding influences affecting metal pipes, and, moreover, are free from the electrolytic effects of the electric current employed in street railway systems.

It hurts your feelings for people to say that you are fickle, but you feel you are.