GLOBE-REPUBLIC.

EVENING, SUNDAY AND WEEKLY.

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WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 3, 1886.

Gladstone is having perplexity in adjusting the materials for his cabinet. But perplexity is what he enjoys. He will overcome it, somewhat as he overcomes a big tree.

The Jenny Lind of ancient history is about to appear on the London stage again in song. Her voice is said to be still as sweet and wonderful as it was when she sang America off its feet back of the war.

Bismarck's declaration of war against the German Paine is the sensation of Europe. Bismarck is the finest specimen of the old-fashioned despot now extant. The democracy of Germany take hope from the probability that he cannot live forever.

There should be no lagging in old primary elections in this county. The method adopted by the GLOBE-REPUBLIC last year and put into practice by the county committee was tenorable and satisfactory, and it should be repeated this year without hesitation.

The house committee on privileges and elections, which is now engaged in Cincinnati, is shovelling up pay-dirt there. But it seems singular that the democrats of that city manifest no interest in the committee at all. Why do they not fetch forward the republican hands?

Clark Vallandigham denounces the statement that he keeps the secret journal in a saloon as a slander. And the proprietor of the saloon (where Val says it is a lie to claim that he keeps it) complains of the newspapers for not having given him a little boom by stating the saloon's name. But Val keeps the journal somewhere outside of the inside chamber, at any rate.

We render thanks to the Scientific Superior for sending "A Seven Up" with the truth of history. The GLOBE-REPUBLIC's ambition is always to live right up to the text, and to follow copy, obey instructions and collect legal rates. And this is the first intimation we have had coming round about by the way of Toledo that we had ever neglected any opening for doing so.

It appears that Simeon Ditmars had not his secret papers with him when his person in New York. He says they are deposited in a safe place in this state, and will be forthcoming when wanted. Simeon has arrived home, and is in as good trim as could be expected after his late contract divorce. He will be ready to appear before the investigating committee when called for.

The indications are that the administration of the adjacent citizens Cleveland is liable to be punished by a stroke of Pan-Electric sarcasm. The cabinet is quivering and twitching from a several of its members, with symptoms of a collapse. The mighty telephone threatens to play "Hello" with the sublime pinnacle of democratic divination which now sits in the light of some six feet above the floor of the White House.

Thomas Dispatch is at home with the mother and sister in Delaware, Ohio. He should have been in Ohio wholesome entirely for the last fortnight. He is decided to all callers, and the women are nursing his sorrow, which are said to be in a thoroughly tangled state of variety in every respect. A few days of such coddling will put Thomas on his proportionate again, and he will then be in a fighting trim to go before the house committee and tell what he thinks he knows about Senator Payne's relations to the sale and property of senatorial members of the last general assembly. But there ought to be some backing and filling. Brown should hasten to Long Branch from being kidnapped again out of the state of Ohio.

A congressional squirm really to be hatched up out of the senate confirmation committee, if the newspaper news's latest reports from Columbus are based on information fairly authentic. The committee is said to have reached the point of agreeing that the constitutional privileges and elections shall be referred to a sufficient addition from both parties. But a subcommittee shall be appointed from a consolidating of three republicans and three democrats, or four and four, that this committee shall make a thorough investigation of the Cincinnati election, and that bringing their report to the senate. The passage of the senate rules and the president's message is to be postponed till the report is made. This, it seems to us, will do to begin with. Let us go.

Free Money.

To the Editor of the Globe-Republic:

Please publish and answer the following: In your issue of Jan. 31, 1886, is found an article headed "The Sun's Fiat Dollar." Believing that the Sun sends some of the writer's stuff, it is left to fight its own battles with the Globe-Republic. But the writer believes it possible for the editor of the Globe-Republic to have that nothing is superintendent money but that made so by the act of the government, and that this fiat money can be made of any kind of material and have the same value as money only. For shocking that such is the fact, we will suppose the note of the writer for one hundred dollars to be in the hands of Mr. John Smith, in these words:

"For value received I promise to pay to John Smith, or bearer, the sum of one hundred dollars on or before the first day of March, 1886."

Can I or can I not legally pay this note with one hundred silver dollars, made legal tender by the act of congress of February 28, 1878, for all debts and dues, public and private? And can I compel the holder of this note to take anything less, in gold, than one hundred dollars, because this hundred dollars, in gold, is worth 50 per cent more than the hundred in silver, which is a legal tender for its payment? And more than this, could, or could I not, legally pay this note with one hundred pieces of paper on which the United States government had, prior to the date of this note, ordered the words, "One Dollar, a legal tender at its face value for all debts and dues, public and private," printed on it?

Has there ever been anything, even gold, used as legal tender money—as a standard by which the value of things, not made money, were to be estimated—except that made such legal tender by the fiat of the government or governing individual?

If, therefore, nothing is money to measure the value of other things with, not made money, until made so by the fiat of the government, how can it be said, with any respect for a common understanding of the law governing the change of one article for another, that the fiat of the government can only be put upon metal to be used as money? when all persons agree that paper money is much more convenient, can be made at a very small cost, compared with the cost of even copper money, and can be kept much more stable in volume than metal money can be—whatever kind of metal be used without any paper, or used as a basis for its certainty of value,—as every great find of the metal reduces its commercial value; while, by the issue of paper money, the value of which is regulated by the constitution, no money could be gotten out of the United-States treasury until paid for by the person obtaining it, in labor of some kind that was necessary, and the product of which required no strong boxes or vaults to hold, as does coin required to float paper promises to pay?

If legal-tender money has ever been made in any other way than by the fiat of the government, the editor of the GLOBE-REPUBLIC will confer a particular favor upon the writer, and, as he believes, will bring to light a fact long hidden from the eyes of the sharpest self-constituted advisers of what material money should be made of.

When it is shown that legal-tender money has never been made in any other way than by the fiat of the government, it will be time enough to look into this play of words, backwards, used by the editor of the GLOBE-REPUBLIC, belittling the Sun's silver dollar, namely:

"It is fiat to the extent of about 20 per cent, for the silver in it will buy less than 80 cents' worth of gold."

ANDREW WHITELEY.

We agree with Mr. Whiteley in the proposition that, when this government makes up its mind to have fiat money, it would be very foolish to exchange the wheat and corn and other products of man's labor for gold to buy silver to make it of. Why pay 80 cents' worth of gold for silver material to make a fiat dollar of, when just as legitimate a dollar can be made out of paper material at a cost of a quarter of a cent? As between the Sun's argument for costly fiat silver and Mr. Whiteley's for economical fiat paper, we are decidedly impressed with the superior logic of Mr. Whiteley's.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Cairo, Ill., had last night nearly a foot of snow.

The heavy snow-storm extended down far in the southwest.

There is a diversity of opinion on the bill to abolish the intermediate penitentiary of Ohio.

Mrs. R. W. Reid, mother of Mrs. Judge Stanley R. Matthews, died Suddenly Tuesday evening of heart disease, at Cincinnati.

A gathering of republican politicians of national prominence is promised at the banquet of the Michigan Club at Detroit, Feb. 22.

Col. Elliott, of Hamilton, O., has been appointed swamp-land agent, and ordered to the Interior department at Washington March 1.

Prof. Edward Orton, state geologist of Ohio, is to deliver a lecture on "Geology and Natural Gas" in College Hall, Cincinnati, Friday night.

The latest on the gas well business, from Findley, is that the atmosphere impregnated with the escaping natural gas cures consumption and catarrh.

The remains of Mrs. Bayard, wife of the secretary, were consigned to the family vault at Wilmington, Del., yesterday. The obsequies were very simple.

Jacob Neiss, aged 32, son of a wealthy and prominent farmer who resides three miles south of Canton, Ohio, was gored to death Tuesday by a mad bull.

Colonel S. K. Donavin is resting at his home at Delaware, O., and will there remain until summoned before the house committee on the Payne investigation.

The explosion of a lamp in Clingston & Sweet's dry goods store, at Washington Court House, O., Monday night, caused a blaze which was extinguished without much damage.

Instead of the celebrated Barnum "mules" which did service in the Tilden campaign, it is said the workers for the Payne senatorship used "horses" in their messages, valued at $100 each.

Lima, O., has a new gas well that yields, when not furnishing gas, about a hundred barrels of oil a day. A number of other wells are being pumped for from fifty to a hundred barrels a day.

Charles Sanders, a carpenter, at work on Schramm & Co's brewery, Tiffin, O., fell from a window to the ground, a distance of twenty feet, and sustained injuries which are expected to prove fatal.

An accident occurred on the Dayton and Toledo narrow gauge near Ludlow Falls Monday evening. The train was badly wrecked and a young man named Schilling, who was stealing a ride, was instantly killed.

The Ohio Republican League, in process of organization, proposes a state convention of local clubs every year immediately after the state convention, every club in the league to have an equal voice in the election of officers. All republican clubs in good standing are entitled to membership.

The committee on Privileges and Elections of the Ohio House began, in Cincinnati yesterday morning, an investigation of the Hamilton county election frauds. Testimony showed that no fraudulent votes had been cast in the twelfth ward, although there had been illegal registering by democrats. Jacob Bauthang related the history of the bribe offered him and his brother by McLean, of the Enquirer office. Eight ward outrages were narrated by John Venable and others. The committee adjourned until this morning.

Congress.

FEBRUARY 2.—SENATE—Resolutions of Inquiry Relative to the president withholding certain information from the senate.

The electoral count bill was recommitted to committee for amendment.

HOUSE—The resolutions of respect for the late Vice President Hendricks were adopted, eulogies being delivered by Messrs. Bynum, Long, Hewitt, Throckmorton, Dingley, Browne, Randall, Springer, Geddes, Lowery, Kleiner and Holman.

Ohio Legislature.

FEBRUARY 2.—SENATE—Bill introduced for commission in each city to select officers of elections.

HOUSE—Bills introduced: Prohibiting an attorney practicing in courts where the judge is his relative; for state inspector of dairies and compelling all articles such as butter to be labeled as butter or oleomargarine; preventing testimony against deceased agents in certain cases; fixing bushel of turnips at sixty pounds.

Bills passed: For establishing district workhouses; allowing prisoners to examine charges before pleading; allowing plaintiffs to remove suits in certain cases; prohibiting tobacco directors from receiving extra pay; compelling drivers to keep to the right.

Lead Us Not Into Temptation.

(Arkansaw Traveler.)

Little Minnie's mother had several times spanked her for going out onto the street. The other day as the groceryman was leaving the house, Minnie called to him and said:

"Come back an shut the gate."

"Why?"

"So I can't get out."

Wife-Murder in Patagonia.

(Binghamton Republican.)

In Patagonia they fine a man two goats for killing his wife. The law is very strict on the subject, too, and if the fine isn't promptly paid he is compelled to marry again. That makes him hustle around for the goats.

Chinese Prescription.

Chinese doctors induce faith in their prescriptions by making them of gigantic size. A writer in The Fortnightly describes one of them two feet long and calling for twenty different ingredients.

France's Egg Production.

France is the greatest egg producing country in the world, supplying not only her own people, but selling also to England, Germany and other countries.

Japanese Oranges.

The Japanese have very small oranges without seeds that come out of the skin almost like a pea out of a pod.

Says the wise Aurelius: "Whatever man thou meetest with immediately say to thyself, what opinions has this man about good and bad?"

THE LOST LAND.

[Ella Wheeler Wilcox in New York Sun.]

There is a story of a beautiful land,
Where fields were fertile and where flowers were bright,
Where tall towers glistened in the morning light,
Where happy children wandered hand in hand,
Where lovers wrote their names upon the sand.
They say it vanished from all human sight;
The hungry sea devoured it in a night.
You doubt the tale? Ah! you will understand;
For, as men muse upon that fable old
They give sad credence always at the last,
However they have caviled at its truth,
When with a tear-dimmed vision they behold
Swift sinking in the ocean of the Past
The lovely lost Atlantis of their Youth.

DRUGGISTS NOT ALWAYS BLAMABLE

Errors Sometimes Made by Physicians in Writing Out Prescriptions.

[Brooklyn Union.]

"It is not only in deadly poison that the errors are made, but other drugs as well. Here's a prescription calling for a two-ounce mixture that contains an ounce of quinine sulphate, and gives a tablespoonful as a dose, or about twenty grains of quinine. I dissensed one drachm, or about sixty grains, in the whole mixture. Here is another prescription calling for forty grains of phosphorus, to be divided into twenty pills, making two grains for a dose. I put in two grains, making the dose one-tenth grain. The maximum dose is about one fourth grain. Here is another calling for morphine sulphate, one half ounce, with no further directions. I questioned the man who bought it, and he told me it was for his child, so I gave him magnesia sulphate, or Epsom salts.

"A well-known physician gave a prescription that was brought to me to fill. It called for aconite root, one half ounce, with directions a teaspoonful. I told the messenger who brought it that it would be finished in three quarters of an hour. That gave me time to send for the physician, who was in a rage because of the delay in filling the prescription. His anger increased when I tried to explain to him, and he said he knew what he was about, and would not have any outside interference. After he cooled off it turned out just as I expected. He intended that the teaspoonful of medicine was to be put in a tumbler of water and a teaspoonful of that taken every hour. But the directions merely stated a teaspoonful, which of course meant the quantity of medicine. The maximum dose of aconite root is about ten drops, and that is the reason I called the doctor. He didn't thank me a bit, however, but said he would send no more prescriptions to me.

"Another physician prescribed for a child of a few months a dose of one grain extract of belladonna, and repeat every two hours. The maximum dose for an adult is two grains. I corrected the prescription so that there was one grain in the whole mixture.

"There are many errors made by physicians in confounding hydrargyrum bichloride, or corrosive sublimate, with the inoffensive hydrargyrum chloride, or calomel. I have more than once corrected prescriptions where strychnia sulphate was prescribed instead of quinine sulphate, and there is one physician whose prescriptions I never pass without testing them, as it is not unusual for me to find two or three errors in one of his prescriptions. For these things we'll believe nearly all druggists have had the same experience, get no credit, but let one of us make a single mistake then all hands are condemned. I think the physicians who write the prescriptions need looking after a good deal more than the druggists who put them up."

Naval Service in Shallow Streams.

(China Cor. Globe-Democrat.)

The naval service of the delta, with its many hundred miles of shallow channel, is done by seven or eight small gunboats of peculiar pattern and half a dozen steam launches, each carrying a Hotchkiss French Oahkeen gun, and manned by six or eight sailors. The gunboats are called cannonières. They are nearly all of them of the same pattern, broad, flat-bottomed, and not drawing more than three feet of water, even when heavily loaded. The idea is a peculiarly American one, borrowed entirely from the little shallow steamers that have for the last half century nearly been running on the upper waters of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri, and more directly from the tin-clads that did such excellent service during the rebellion.

The boilers are in front, protected by a thin steel plating sufficient to turn any fire to be expected from hostile forces in the delta. The engines are aft, and similarly protected. The quarters of the officers are amidships, or if the pattern is varied, wherever convenience dictates. The armament is usually two medium steel guns forward on a revolving platform, with a range of two miles, the gunners being protected by semi-circular steel plates at the edges of the platform, and two or three Hotchkiss guns at the sides or on a mast guarded in similar fashion. The wheels at the stern are sometimes masked by broad plates of steel, a continuation of the plating of the sides. The small-arm is the Mauser rifle, a heavy weapon, but considered by the French the most efficient. These vessels are all painted gray. They were built in France, brought out in pieces and put together either at Saigon or Haiphong.

Morocco Prison Life.

[Tangiers Letter.]

We went to the prisons, and looking through some huge doors of iron gratings into large halls or cells they appeared like—saw scores of abject looking prisoners of all ages making baskets and straw goods. Seeing us, a number of them came running to the iron gratings and began begging for money or tobacco.

In a room near the prisons we were shown where they whipped convicts for insubordination, and also those whom the bashaw had found guilty of petty crimes. From appearances there must have been an immense amount of this terrible punishment inflicted in this room during the centuries of the past. I was told that the prisoner was first stripped naked, and then stretched out on the floor, four muscular Arabs holding his hands and feet, while the unmerciful "cat o' nine tails" was being applied to his back. The oaken floor was worn deep and smoothly polished by the strugglings and writhings of the tortured victims under the cruel lash.

One of the guides got the "cat"—an ugly relic of past barbarism—and showed it to me. It consisted of several thick lashes of rawhide, about thirty inches long, attached to a stout oaken handle of the same length. I observed that the lashes were stained with blood, and the same red stains could be seen spattered about the floor and walls. As I appeared to take much interest in the room and in listening to the details of the punishment, the guides volunteered to the consul to go out and get a prisoner and have him whipped before me, probably thinking it would be an interesting spectacle for me to witness, but I energetically declined the kind offer.

The Cochineal.

[Inter Ocean.]

The cochineal used to be an extensive article of commerce and brought a revenue of several millions to Guatemala every year, but the cheapness of the aniline dyes has driven it out of the market, and nowadays it is cultivated only for local consumption, and extensively used by the natives, whose cotton and woolen fabrics are gayly dyed, and the colors will stand any amount of water or sun.

The cochineal is a larva which feeds upon the pulpy leaf of that species of cactus known as the "nopal," and in its natural state looks like frost or mold. The natives carefully scrape it off into gourds, and the cells being full of purple blood, it makes a liquid of the deepest color, when the mass is crushed. For 200 years it was the base of dye stuffs all over the world, and thousands of people were engaged in its cultivation. Until 1870 the shipments from Guatemala amounted to 300,000 or 400,000 pounds each year, but in 1884 the export had fallen to 1,800 pounds.

Dr. Hierme Retsof, an eminent oculist, says that the common electric light produces color blindness.

An incandescent lamp that requires no vacuum has been patented in Germany.

DOG-DAYS IN RUSSIA.

FAIRY PLAYS AND OTHER ST. PETERSBURG FRIVOLITIES.

Official Junketing Trips at the Public Cost—The Czar's Visit to Finland—Merry St. Petersburgers—Lively Competitive Contests.

[St. Petersburg Cor. New York Sun.]

The activity of the Russian officials, to all appearances, reaches its highest point in dog-days. Now, as in former years, there are scores of different commissions and committees, sub commissions and sub-committees traveling in all the parts of the country, presumably for the public ends. They seem to revise various branches of the administration, and to study on the spot different questions of national importance, such as epidemics, epizootics, the laying of new railways, the digging of new canals, the improvement of rivers, the protection to some new industries, the struggle against grasshoppers, the Siberian marriots, the sectarians and the Nihilists, the opening of new ports, and no end of other big points. It ought to be highly gratifying to the czar's subjects to see his officials earning their bread by the sweat of their brows.

But the trouble is that they (the subjects) know very well that that unseasoned display of official activity is merely dog days junketing at public cost. Every year as the vacations approach the tchinovniks here vie with each other in inventing the public questions that should be studied on the spot. Some of these junketing trips are, nevertheless, described in the newspapers at great length, as if they really meant business. Just now, for instance, all the journals of this capital are describing the czar's trip to Finland.

On the shore of the Finnish bay, in a picturesque spot, there is a little town, Willman strand. The czar and czarina made up their minds to go there and see the sights. They wanted to go there by railway and to return back aboard of some man-of-war. To please such guests the Finns have built a railway from Abo to Willman strand, a distance of sixteen miles. When everything was ready, in The Official Messenger there appeared an item stating that his majesty was going to review the armies of Finland. Now, those armies consist of nine battalions all told. For weeks the Finn soldiers were making triumphal arches, ornamenting the railroad stations with fir garlands, and covering the platforms with red cloth.

At last the czar, in company with scores of generals and courtiers, went on his Finnish journey, or, as the papers style it, "his triumphal march." The Finn women presented to the czarina a little boat of their own make, and the men have in various ways shown their loyalty. As soon, however, as the czar was gone, the senate of Finland voted unanimously to raise the tax on Russian goods imported to Finland—in order, as it were, to cover the expenses of the imperial trip.

Among other official trips of this season is worth noticing that of bishops. In the city of Kazan there met twelve bishops, each accompanied by half a dozen learned theologians. They held their meetings in a church and discussed means of bringing Mohammedan Tartars and the old believers to the bosom of the orthodox church, and of strengthening faith among the people. A bishop suggested education as the best means for that end, but the rest of the theologians were unanimous in anathematizing modern education. "See what a life the best educated people of St. Petersburg are living!" remarked one of them.

During these dog-days the St. Petersburgers live as merrily as in any other season. The fairy play is the rage of the day here. In all the suburban fashionable parks, gardens, and theaters they put up some fairy play. "The Journey to the Moon," for instance, has been played here about a hundred times. Another play of the kind, the "Golden Apples," has been presented about seventy-five times. One critic expressed his surprise at the success of these plays, which, as he said, "have no sense whatever."

"Sense!" answered a critic of The Novoe Vremya. "We do not care for sense at all! Show us beautiful forms, graceful movements, expressive pantomimes—that is what we want. We are tired of sensible dialogues. See what toes of steel has Mme. Leory, and did you ever see such a personification of grace as is Mme. Lukki! How charmingly fairy-like she goes up to the moon."

Now the theater goers in Arcadia and other dog days places of amusement will see charming scenes and a host of fairies; they will hear music and songs, and notice ingenious disguises, wonderful transformations, and suggestive pantomimes.

Competition in Russia is just now very lively. The czar's brother, Grand Duke Vladimir, is watching the military cook competition in preparing the soldier mess, and he distributes personally the cook prizes of silver spoons with small sums of money. Then the czar's uncle, Grand Duke Nicholas, oversees a curious race at a distance of 100 versts (sixty-seven miles) between the cavalry officers and a railroad train, the former winning. Another czar's uncle, Grand Duke Michael, is noting which of seven batteries will the quicker demolish its target, while the peasants of the neighborhood are thanking God for a good crop. It is well known here that the residents of several villages near Kranoe Selo, where the big maneuvers take place, live exclusively on the bullets, cannonballs and bombshells they pick up on their fields. A few days ago, near Cronstadt, there was a race between Russian and Finnish yachts, which competed for the prize of the ministry of marine, a six ton yacht. A Russian yacht won the prize. As for horse races, we have them almost every day.

THE BLOW-GUN OF THE DYAKS.

The "Sumpitan" and Its Poisoned Arrow—A Weapon Silent and Deadly.

[Cor. American Field.]

A peculiar weapon, and one whose like we have not yet seen, is the "sumpitan" or blow gun of the Dyaks. This weapon is a long, straight, and polished tube of heavy wood, about eight feet long and an inch or two in diameter, bored out with the utmost care, customarily ornamented with tweed patterns, and often surrounded at the end with metal. At the end, lashed to the side in such a way as not to interfere with the main use of the weapon, is often found a spear head, giving the sumpitan a two fold use, and showing us that it was after all no Caucasian who first invented the bayonet.

The sumpitan shoots a poisoned arrow. This is only about six or eight inches long, and as thick as a heavy darning needle, being frequently only a large thorn. At its base—secret of the force with which it can be blown—it has a little wad or ball of pith, which just fits the caliber throughout.

The tip of this tiny arrow is poisoned. Rev. Mr Wood thinks, with the juice of the deadly native upas tree; but in this he is not necessarily right. Mr. Carl Bock, who is perhaps the only traveler of note who ever saw the process of preparing the arrows, thus describes what he observed among the Poonans of the interior:

"They had a bundle of arrows by their side, and as soon as the poisonous matter was hot, they took a small quantity and smeared it over a wooden plate, by means of a wooden instrument resembling a pestle, till the plate was covered with a thick layer. Then taking an arrow, they rolled the head across the plate, so that it became coated with the pasty matter. Next they made a spiral incision in the arrow head, and again rolled it over the plate. * * * What this arrow poison is made of, I could never ascertain, notwithstanding all my inquiries on the spot. It certainly contained nicotine, which the Dyaks collect from their pipes when they get foul after smoking."

Many scientific men of Europe have attempted the discovery of the nature of this poison, but have failed; nor has an antidote been discovered which is more certain than the common treatment for a snake-bite—copious draughts of spirits and abundant exercise, with cauterization of the wound. It is probable that different poisons are used.

The wound of this tiny arrow is usually within a few minutes fatal to animal or man. The bravest troops dread to march against an enemy so armed, for the hidden foe, using a weapon perfectly silent (even more so than the bow and arrow) can creep undiscovered to easy distance, and slay a dozen men before his location can be determined. It is strange, too, at what range this weapon is fatal. At forty or fifty yards the native can use it with perfect accuracy and can even do execution at seventy-five to 100 yards, a distance almost incredible. English sailors soon learned to dread the canoe attacks of these fierce pirates, who came on with their "pea-shooters," and blew a perfect cloud of death darts through every cranny of the ship's defences.

The Dyak uses the sumpitan as a hunting weapon, for which its perfect silence renders it the more serviceable. Most of his game is killed with it. He cuts out an inch or so of the flesh from about the tiny wound, and then eats the animal with perfect impunity. The poison seems not to affect the remainder of the body at all. The effect of this poison is supposed to be a stoppage of the action of the heart.

Imitations of English Swelldom.

[Cor Kansas City Times.]

Newport is to the rest of America much what Louis XIV is to Benjamin Franklin! When one sees a fair lady driven about in a carriage with four horses, the leaders ridden by postillions, and with two footmen standing up behind, one rubs one's eyes and looks again to see if we are not somewhere else, anywhere else than in republican America. And when one hears a servant address a very commonplace looking young man with: "Yes, my lord," one hesitates to believe in the permanence of democratic institutions. Boston is one thing, New York is another, and Philadelphia is another, but Newport is the essence of all. Like the French cook who wanted fifty hams in order to get juice to make sauce enough for one salad dressing, so Newport takes many cities in order to get the essence of its summer frivolity.

I went to Newport with a man who was very much irritated by all he saw. The flunkeys and servants, the parade of wealth on every hand struck him as incongruous. The appearance of a young man at the Casino dressed in a beautiful fitting suit of white duck, with a pink shirt and white collar, a light pink neckcloth and a light pink ribbon around his hat and a pink flower in his button-hole, made my friend wretched. He wanted to throw water on him and did not cease his bitter speeches till the young man disappeared.

But why so? I had no more desire to spoil him than I should have to catch a butterfly and tear off one of its wings. If a certain number of men and women are willing to go to Newport and bear great expenses to make the place beautiful for my amusement, why should I gibe at them? These people cannot do anything else. Why be angry at a power because it cannot dig with a spade? It always seems to me that a man who is quite content with his own position, and the honesty and usefulness of his own work would not be irritated by the occupations of other people. There is a taint of jealousy in this dislike of butterflies. What you are quite indifferent to you cannot dislike, and you cannot love.

It is those who neither hate nor love us who torture us most successfully. And I fancy the ill-concealed indifference of these fashionable people is what most irritated my friend. He was nothing to them and he did not like it. I was nothing to them and I did not care the price of a herring whether I was or not. And if you are going to Newport with all sorts of prejudices of a democratic kind in your head you had better stop at home. As well go to see "Hamlet" with an intense dislike of ghosts or to see Irving with a temper alive to faults of manner. Everything in this world is to be taken with a thorough understanding before hand that it will taste better at some time or other.

Bad Penmanship.

[H. Van Schoyerod in The Current.]

In spite of the theory of a bad penman who wrote a sprawling hand (was it not the first Napoleon?) that the poorer a man's handwriting is the more character it has, the majority of letter-writers, authors, scholars and journalists are envious of the clerk and copyist with their one talent for writing a clear and beautiful hand. As a nation, we have sadly degenerated in the art of using the pen. Comparing the beautiful and uniform handwriting of the last century with the skim along, spider-track, rail-fence style of the present day, one almost regrets the fact that the goosequill has gone out of fashion and a stiff and awkward writing implement been substituted in its stead.

A fortune awaits the man who will invent a flexible writing stick—not a gold pen tipped with platinum—of some non-corrosive material. It is so hard to break in a pen, and having worn down the points to suit your style, they are likely to snap or splutter before you have tossed off a dozen pages of manuscript. Then there is the annoyance of getting a fiber between the nibs, analogous to that of getting a bit of meat between the bicuspids at the dinner-table; and nine persons out of ten will wipe the pen frantically on the occiput to rid it of the filament—and catch a hair! A new steel pen is as awkward as a phenomenally stiff collar, or a pair of new shoes, and, moreover, as the average penman is in continual danger of "impaling himself on his own pot hooks," perhaps the only relief is found in the type-writer, which seldom betrays one into a loose and slovenly style of handwriting.

Sheridan and Sherman.

[New York Cor. Chicago Tribune.]

Brevity of stature in Gen. Phil Sheridan, by the way, is caused by his legs alone, for he is about as big as Gen. Sherman from the hips up. I saw them sitting side by side, on a hotel veranda at Manhattan Beach, and their heads were on a level. The gallant Phil is not sensitive on the subject. A girl came for his and Sherman's autographs in her album, and the generals wrote their names. She was not content, for she set her heart on a verse of "Sheridan's ride" in his own handwriting. This he declined to grant. Then she began to question him about that famous piece of equestrianism. His answers were polite but not revelatory. "Now, Gen. Sherman," she at length asked, turning in pretty desperation to him, "what do you imagine Gen. Sheridan said on mounting his steed?"

"Well, I really don't know," was the response, with a quizzical glance down at the legs of his fellow-officer, who had just got out of a chair, "but maybe he said to his orderly, 'Shorten these stirrup straps.'"

Yankee Accent in London.

[London Letter.]

Yankee accent and inflection have come into fashion among the London aristocrats. It is a freak that may and may not last. An acquaintance of Lord Dunraven attributes to him the Americanized talk of his particular set and the marquis of Lorne and Earl Dufferin, aided by their wives, are supposed to have taken back from Canada an American manner of utterance. These examples could not fail to be potent in London, and the novelty seems to have proved captivating.

A "Newly Discovered Insect."

[Chicago Herald.]

It is said to be as true as preaching that the British scientists sitting in convention were deceived by a "newly discovered insect." A bean, with two eyes of small beads and legs of small fibers, was placed on a plate, covered with a wine glass, and passed around for inspection. The "vicia faba" was received with laughter.

Don't Understand Pictures.

The savages of central Africa have great keenness of vision, but it is a curious fact that if they are shown a picture in an illustrated newspaper they see nothing at first but black and white, although they gradually begin to perceive the lines of the picture.

Bewildered by the Figures.

It is stated on good authority that an average of about one clerk per year in the bureau of statistics is driven to insanity by the work of the bureau.

Canadian Canoes on the Thames.

Canadian canoes are establishing themselves on the Thames, and promise to share with the more capacious steam-launch the honors of popular favoritism.

Parnell's Secret.

John H. Parnell, the Georgia brother of the agitator, says that the secret of the latter's success is "a silent tongue and a watchful eye."

A New London Bridge.

[Chicago Herald.]

Americans who have wasted more or less valuable time in crossing the overcrowded London bridge will be glad to know that this bridge will soon be relieved of part of its immense traffic by the construction of a tower bridge, half a mile from London bridge, at a cost of $4,000,000. It will be a suspension bridge with two castellated towers, each 200 feet high, in the river, at the end of two anchorage towers on the river bends. The central roadway span of 200 feet width will be in two parts, each of which will, on a level being touched, fold upward against its tower, leaving a clear space 200 feet wide and 135 feet high for the passage of vessels.

Hydraulic machinery operating these draws will be under the control of one man, and so powerful that each of these great iron draws, 100 feet wide and 100 feet long, will be raised and lowered without jarring or jerking. A foot bridge over the central cables, and approached by elevators in river towers, will be always ready for use without regard to the condition of the draw bridge below. The bridge will be 200 feet long, and even during its construction the passage of vessels will not be stopped.

Promoting Small Farms.

[London Correspondence.]

The schemes of a "Small Farm Company" in England is already assuming definite shape. The general scope of the company will be to buy up land and to re sell it in small parcels by a system of annual payments. In so doing the company will, it is hoped, meet the particular wants of several classes of people—such, for instance, as the following: (1) Communities of agricultural laborers, each of whom would own separate plots, but who would be able to use horses, plows, etc., in common. (2) Small farmers, willing to farm holdings of not more than thirty acres. (3) Tradesmen and other immigrants from neighboring towns wishing to add to their resources by various kinds of petite culture, market gardening, bee keeping, poultry breeding, and the like. It is an excellent scheme, and its progress deserves to be watched with close and practical interest.

Testing Steel Plate.

[Age of Steel.]

In tests made by the Detroit Dry Dock company a ball of iron weighing 950 pounds was dropped from a height of thirty-five feet on a plate three sixeenths of an inch thick. The blow made a bulge in the plate that extended twenty inches into the ground, but the plate was not broken. The plate was then turned over and the ball dropped on the bulge. This was repeated five times, and then the plate was not broken, but when the ball was dropped on an iron plate a half inch thick the plate was broken at the first blow. These tests show plainly that thin steel plates are not only sufficiently strong, but that their elasticity would make them far superior to wood for building even the roughest barge.

Queer Experiments with Drugs.

[Chicago Tribune.]

At the recent French conference for the advancement of science some interesting experiments were made on hysterical patients with drugs which were not actually administered, but were placed at the back of the patients' heads, and were used without their knowledge. Under these circumstances opium produced sleep, alcohol produced drunkenness, and absinthe brought on paralysis of the legs. In women, camphor gave rise to religious ecstacy, and in men convulsions. Many drugs were employed, and all of them gave their characteristic effects, though they were all contained in vials or wrapped in paper.

Celibacy in France.

[Chicago Tribune.]

The number of adult unmarried persons in France is constantly increasing. In recent statistics presented to the Academie de Medicine it appears that in the year 1770 they numbered 100, while in 1885 they are found to be in the proportion of 224 per 1,000 inhabitants. The average age at which French people marry is high, being 28½ years for men and 25 for women. Unmarried men are more numerous in the frontier departments, and women in those of the center of France. Large cities promote celibacy. Crimes, deaths from diseases and suicides are proportionately larger in the unmarried portion of the population.

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And Every Species of Itching and Burning Diseases Cured by Cuticura.

Eczema, or Salt Rheum, with its agonizing itching and burning, instantly relieved by a warm bath with Cuticura Soap, and a single application of Cuticura, the great Skin Cure. This repeated daily, with two or three doses of Cuticura Resolvent, the new Blood Purifier, to keep the blood cool, the perspiration cool and unirritating, the bowels open, the liver and kidneys active, will speedily cure Eczema, Tetter, Ringworm, Psoriasis, Lichen, Pruritus, Scald Head, Dandruff, and every species of Itching, Scaly and Pimply Humors of the Scalp and Skin, when the best physicians and all known remedies fail.

Will McDonald,

242 Dearborn St., Chicago, gratefully acknowledges a cure of Eczema, or Salt Rheum on head, neck, face, arms and legs for seventeen years; not able to walk except on hands and knees for one year; not able to help himself for eight years; tried hundreds of remedies; doctors pronounced his case hopeless; permanently cured by Cuticura Resolvent (Blood Purifier) internally, and Cuticura and Cuticura Soap (the great skin cures) externally.

Chas. Houghton, Esq.,

Lawyer, 28 State street, Boston, reports a case of Eczema under his observation for ten years, which covered the patient's body and limbs, and to which all known methods of treatment had been applied without benefit, which was completely and solely cured by the Cuticura Remedies, leaving a clear and healthy skin.

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Ravenna, Ohio, writes: "For the last year I have had a species of itching, scaly and pimply humors on my face to which I have applied a great many methods of treatment without success, and which was speedily and entirely cured by Cuticura."

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