

PRAIRIE DOGS IN CENTRAL PARK.

How They Behave When First Turned Loose in Their Quarters.

When the dogs were turned into the enclosure they frisked about the space a few moments in evident surprise. Then they gathered in a knot for consultation.

As the dirt was thrown up from the hole the dog that was next to the one digging gathered it in his paws and threw it back farther to those behind.

Presently there was a movement of the earth at a distance of fifteen feet. A dog's head appeared, and the subterranean workmen all fled out of the gallery which they had made.

New Test of Financial Standing.

A new test of the real financial standing of a man about town is to sniff at his silk hat. If it smells like a mixture of turpentine, hartshorn and several other things, however faintly, then the wearer is to be set down as not a dauntless reckless spender.

They tell a piece of fiction about a fellow noted among a lot of swells for his devices for living slowly at a low cost. The tale runs that he called on a beautiful young heiress, with a distant view of getting so near to her as to marry.

A Methodical Old Man.

Thomas M. Walter, architect of the United States capitol extension and of Girard college, lives in Philadelphia and is described as the most methodical of men. He is now engaged on the new city hall in that city.

A Rich Find.

A broad tract of land in Lisbon, Me., known for years as the "Pine Woods," is now one of the most highly valued lots of land in that state. Two years ago it could have been bought for \$5 an acre, and to-day \$25,000 an acre is its estimated value.

India's Opium Production.

The amount of crude opium produced in India in 1885 is stated in recently published statistics to have been 8,071,120 pounds. The number of acres of land used in its culture is given at 876,454.

On the Old English Post-Roads.

Cycling is giving to the present generation of England a remarkable knowledge of their own country, which railroads were causing them to lose, and has infused fresh life into many once famous inns on the old post-roads.

Can No Longer Be Said.

With the multiplication of elevated railroads in all directions, allowing passengers to look into all manner of bedrooms and kitchens, and get correct, if fleeting, views of the sort of domestic economy practiced by their occupants, it can no longer be said that "one half the world knows not how the other half lives."

Lights for the Poor.

One man's hobby is to induce the wealthy residents of cities to open their spacious, ventilated homes during their own summer absence as lodgings for the poor. He argues that it is wicked in the millions to let thousands of innocent children die unnecessarily in tenements.

The crop of raisins grown in California has increased from 1,000 boxes nineteen years ago to 400,000 the present season.

IN A LOOKING-GLASS.

HABIT PEOPLE HAVE OF GAZING ON THEMSELVES IN MIRRORS.

Not One Person Out of Ten Can Resist the Temptation—A Reporter's Observations—Dude, Workingman, Fine Lady, Shop-Girl.

"Did you ever stand here a few minutes and watch people admire themselves in the mirror?" remarked a gentleman to an inquirer reporter as the two were standing at the entrance of the Arcade.

"Well, you just ought to take a position here for a while and keep your eyes open. You will see things that will make you laugh."

It was a few minutes after 6 o'clock, and the great army of working people, clerks, mechanics and professional men were hurrying and scurrying to and fro on their way home to partake of the evening meal.

People that you might think would never for a moment care to see their image reflected would come along and not only size themselves up in the Arcade, but also in the show windows, which in most cases reflect as well as a mirror.

Then, for instance, comes a gentleman gorgeously arrayed in tall silk hat, immaculate shirt-front, cut-away coat of perfect pattern and light trousers. Watch him and see what he will do. He looks at his figure critically, gives one pants leg a little tug downward to make it set better, straightens out a wrinkle showing in his coat sleeve, and with an air of satisfaction moved on.

Here is a shop-girl. She will certainly not care much. Mistaken idea. She lifts her dress around, sticks back under her hat a rebellious lock of hair that will peep out, and fumbles at a limp and bimby collar at her throat that the weather has dealt most unkindly by. Poor girl, her shoes are run over at the heel, and her skirts are faded and threadbare; but she looks into that great truth-teller and tries to better her appearance.

Here are a party of workmen carrying dinner-baskets. What do you suppose they will do? Out of the half dozen not one refrains from gazing in the reflector. One brushes a chunk of soot from his nose, another rather jauntily sets his battered hat a little more to one side of his head, another buttons his coat, and still another, who as if fatigued by the toll of the day has allowed himself to lean forward in a dejected way, braces up and makes his movements more elastic.

You may joke at your neighbor's expense, say he is a conceited fellow, never so happy as when looking at himself in the glass, but you should not cast a stone, for "we all do it."

Looking at Kentucky Horses.

Three representatives of the Japanese government have been in Kentucky looking at the horses in that state, their object being to gather as much information as possible concerning the highest types of trotters and runners. They purchased nothing, but took such copious notes concerning numerous animals that it is expected they will do some business with the breeders of the blue-grass region before leaving for home.

Josh Billings and Rubinstein.

When Rubinstein was in this country "Josh Billings" was introduced to him, and the pianist in conversation presently endeavored to impress upon the Yankee an idea of his high family rank. "Indeed," he said, "I have ascertained that my ancestors were prominent men in the Crusades, and one of them accompanied the Emperor Barbarossa."

A Curious Custom.

The Parsee mode of disposing of the dead is very curious. Immediately after death the body is carried by white-robed priests to the Towers of Silence, lofty circular buildings, haunted by birds of prey, waiting to devour the corpse. Before taking final leave a dog is brought and made to gaze into the eyes of the dead, to extract the sins of the departed.

The First Ocean Steamer.

A lady from Michigan relates a very pretty story of her little boy whom she took last summer for the first time to the seaside. The little fellow was greatly pleased with the sight. One day, when he saw the first ocean steamer approach the coast, he was exuberant: "Oh, mamma, just come out and see. There's a big locomotive taking a bath."

Productive Countries.

A Gascon and a Provencal were each extolling the productiveness of their native provinces. "At Bordeaux," said the former, "you drop a match in a field; next year you will see a forest!" "At Marseilles," rejoined the other, "you drop a brass button; a week after you have a ready-made pair of trousers!"

The Ichthyophagous Club.

There is in New York a society of fish-eaters styled the ichthyophagous club. It is said the work thus far accomplished by the organization toward popularizing many fish dishes hitherto forbidden entrance to the dining-rooms proves that it has not lived in vain.

Near the Throne.

A Colorado paper says that "the cow may be queen, the horse king, and the sheep away up in royal honors, but it is an indispensable fact that the hog, under the impetus of alfalfa and pea food, is approaching dangerously near the throne."

The Four Causes.

Dirty streets, unclean water, neglected sewers, and anti-vaccination ideas are said to be the cause of the visitation of small-pox in Montreal.

Grenoble, France, is the greatest glove-making city in the world.

FOR TAXES.

CLOSING OF THE SINGER SEWING MACHINE WORKS AT ELIZABETHPORT.

Three Thousand Five Hundred Men Thrown Out of Employment—Vice-President W. F. Procter's Statements—The Shops in Scotland to Be Run on Double Time, Etc.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The closing of the Singer Sewing Machine Works at Elizabethport yesterday throws three thousand five hundred men out of employment. The pay roll is \$40,000 per week. The trouble has been brewing for many months, and was precipitated yesterday when Controller Carlton and City Treasurer Wheeler, of Elizabethport, went to the factory of the company and made a levy for \$20,000 claimed to be due on last assessment for taxes.

W. F. Procter, vice-president of the company, stated last night that the Singer company, when Elizabeth was in trouble, advanced \$300,000 on a call loan, and then individual members of the firm advanced a similar sum; besides the Singer company bought many Elizabeth bonds, so that the city owes the company nearly \$1,500,000. The demand of the company for the payment of the call loans and interest have been ignored and the city virtually tried to repudiate her bonds.

What the Tribune Says About It. SALT LAKE, UTAH, Dec. 18.—The Tribune says this morning concerning remarks in yesterday morning's papers respecting Federal officials who have been disgraced by Mormon snares to entrap them into lewdness: "One man has been arrested charged with lewd conduct, who was appointed as assistant district attorney to attend one term of court, and another man who has been arrested who was deputy under Marshal Inland. They are neither Federal officers in the sense usually intended. Neither have they been conspicuous in opposing Mormon lawlessness and nastiness."

Yesterday at Elizabethport, when the truth became apparent the employees looked from one to the other in alarm. The matter had not even been hinted to them; and they became angry when they thought of their families and the coming cold weather. "That's what we get for working for a firm that fights the city, the poor man always goes to the wall," and similar expressions were frequently heard. The employees quit work at an early hour, and sat gloomily about the factory, awaiting the closing whistle. Their actions were indicative of deep feeling; when the whistle blew they put on their coats, and were walking gloomily away when one shouted, "I don't hear anything about pay either."

The Court Had no Jurisdiction. FORT SMITH, Dec. 19.—The trial of Stephen Edwards, charged with murdering his uncle, Fleetwood, near Vinita, I. T., about a year ago, terminated yesterday by the jury deciding that the court had no jurisdiction in the case. As soon as Edwards was released he was immediately re-arrested on the charge of murder of a most revolting character; the information being to the effect that a short time before he killed his uncle he had a white girl living at home, who had a one year old babe. He became enraged at the child one day because it cried, and taking it by the heels dashed its brains out against the wall, after which he buried it in a fence corner, and threatened to kill any one cognizant of the affair, who should tell it. His neighbors all feared him and none of them dared report the case until after he was arrested for killing Fleetwood.

Calling for Military.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 18.—Special to the Pioneer Press, from Helena, Mont., received at an early hour this morning, says: "W. C. Cobb, in charge of Eddie Hammond & Co.'s store, was assaulted by two Indians, supposed to be Shokanones, who forcibly entered the store and drove him out. Cobb fired at them, killing one and severely wounding the other. Sheriff Lane and posse left Missouri for Arlee in the afternoon to quiet any disturbance which might be endangered by the affair. To-night (Thursday) he wires the authorities calling on the military for aid, saying that the Indians had taken from him some prisoners, whom he arrested. A detachment of troops have gone out from Missouri. The white settlers at Arlee have taken an engine and left for the place. There are some three hundred Indians."

Twenty-five Pages of Nominations.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—To-day's Congressional Record contains twenty-five pages of nominations sent to the senate since the beginning of the present session. They number about twelve hundred.

The senate committee on patents to which has been referred the international copyright bill introduced by Senator Hawley, has directed its chairman, Senator Platt, to give public notice of its purpose to hear authors and others who are interested in the subject. No day has yet been fixed for the first hearing, but the committee expresses a hope that all who have views to express on the subject will be prepared to communicate to the committee verbally or in writing before the holiday recess.

What the Authorities of the Middletown Insane Asylum have to Say in Regard to Mrs. Dudley.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Dec. 18.—Mrs. Yacuit Dudley, who attempted to kill O'Donovan Rossa, is sorely trying the patience and kindness of the authorities of Middletown insane asylum. When she was sent there it was the general impression that she would be in the asylum a short time only; that her friends in England would take her away, or counsel secure her release. No friends have appeared to claim her as yet. The prospects are that she will be a charge on the institution for an indefinite period. She is a criminal paper inmate. The city of New York pays \$3.50 a week for her maintenance, but necessities of the case put the asylum to expense of \$1.50 a week. From the manner of Mrs. Dudley when questioned on subject the impression has taken form of almost positive belief that she was released in England on the condition she leave the country at once. It is also learned Mrs. Dudley is an illegitimate child. Her parents being high in rank in English society. She was educated in seclusion in a convent, and while there was betrayed into a mock marriage. She had two children before she learned that her supposed husband had another wife and family. Since Mrs. Dudley learned that her counsel was unable to have her released from the asylum she has been determined on suicide. Constant watch is kept upon her. For some time it has been a favorite diversion of Mrs. Dudley to pass a part of the night uttering shrieks; then she shouts to the irritable, but quiet patients in adjoining apartments until she has them joining in an ear piercing chorus.

The Editor of the Ogden Herald Convinced of Libeling Chief Justice Zane.

SALT LAKE, Dec. 19.—Charles W. Henningway, editor of the Ogden Herald, was convicted last night of libeling Chief Justice Zane. The trial was held in the first district court, Justice Powers presiding. Judge Zane did not know of the libel until after the proceedings had been begun. The article charged Judge Zane with being responsible in his ruling for the murder of McMurrin by Deputy Marshal Collins, and shielding the officials and others guilty of lewdness. It said the action of Zane "made it reasonably evident to the anti-Mormons of Utah that a federal justice will permit no atrocity committed by an anti-Mormon against a Mormon to be speedily and condignly punished according to justice." Then followed a threat that if this thing continues the Mormons would defend their persons, families and property with the necessary force. It said there was a limit to the endurance of even Mormons, and bids anti-Mormon assassins, judicial malefactors and robbers to beware. It said Judge Zane rendered a crooked decision in the Vandercook lewd and lascivious case, and dozens and dozens of Mormons have been slaughtered in cold blood, but in every single instance the murderer escaped punishment at the hands of the Justice, which thus practically licensed murder. There was more of the same kind of allegations. Sentence will be passed in January.

State Board of Equalization Fixed the Valuation Too High.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 19.—Thirteen national banks, located in Cleveland, Youngstown, Elyria and Mahoning, filed in the United States court a prayer for injunction to enjoin county treasurers of the counties in which they are located, from collecting from them excessive taxation. These banks aver that the State board of equalization fixed the valuation too high and largely in excess of the valuation placed on other properties and business. Judge Walker allowed restraining order. Under the restraining order, banks are to pay into county treasuries what they deem just and equitable amount of taxation, the balance to be withheld until the court has passed upon the controversy. Amounts involved are very heavy. County taxation amounts to \$4,539,500 and increased valuation being \$5,023,000.

The Indians Gathering in Large Numbers.

ST. PAUL, MINN., Dec. 19.—A special to the Pioneer Press from Helena, Montana, says: Latest reports from Arlee, say that the Indians are gathering there in large numbers. Their leader is known as "Big Jim," an Indian who is said to have killed eight white men. The Indian killed by Combs has not been identified. Major Ford with three companies of troops, left Missoula for Arlee. It is feared that the tribe making demonstrations will be joined by Flat Heads, who are inclined to commence hostilities against the whites in that section.

Ex-Senator Chaffe Denies Ever Being Interviewed.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Ex-Senator Chaffe, who is now in the city, said last night to a reporter, who questioned him about an interview concerning Mr. Blaine and Walter Phelps in matter of the last presidential campaign: "I can't understand where this interview could have originated, I have had no talk with any reporter that I know of; I would not talk that sort of thing to a reporter anyway. Some Western papers have a way of manufacturing things which they think they would like to have a man to say, and then palm them off on the public as things that he did say. This appears to have been one of that kind of interviews."

Very Spirited Bidding.

LEXINGTON, KY., Dec. 19.—Milton Young's public sale of three and two year old and yearling thoroughbreds from the McGrathiana stables took place to-day at Tracy & Withers stables, twenty-three head brought \$56,200. Every prominent stable in the United States was represented by its proprietor or agent. The bidding was very spirited. Mr. S. S. Brown, of Pittsburg, was the largest purchaser. He took Troubadour, three old by Lisbon, dam by Gen. Linne winner of several important races of the past season at \$7,050.

Offered to Qualify and Give Bond.

FRANKFORT, KY., Dec. 19.—Mrs. M. C. Lucas was elected by the vote of Davis county to the office of jailer to succeed her husband, who while in the discharge of his duties was shot and killed by a mob. She applied to the Davis county court, of which the appellant Atchison was presiding judge and offered to qualify and give bond as jailer. The judge refused to permit her to qualify. A writ of mandamus from the circuit court was asked for to compel the county court to allow her to qualify. The circuit court denied the writ and Mrs. Lucas appealed to the court of appeals yesterday. Judge Fryor, of the court of appeals, affirmed the decision of the circuit court.

Blacksmith and Machine Shops Burned.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 18.—The blacksmith and machine shops of the Missouri Car and Foundry Company were destroyed by fire early this morning. Loss \$25,000.

Business Failures for the Week.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—The business failures occurring throughout the country during the week as reported to R. G. Dun & Co., number for the United States 183, and for Canada 72, or a total of 255, as against 257 last week and 234 the week previous. The western and southern States furnish more than one half the total number.

Two Hundred Dollars Reward.

MONROE, LA., Dec. 18.—The following circular has been issued by Sheriff J. E. McQuire, this city: Two hundred dollars reward will be paid for the arrest of George Robinson, a murderer. Robinson is about 24 years old, 5 feet 7 inches high, stout built, has had small-pox, brown or copper color, has a long nose for a negro, hair cut very short, and an old pistol wound in his right hand. If arrested or any information telegraph me at Monroe, La. Robinson killed Mr. Millard Parker here a few days ago.

Death of William Miles, Esq.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMERCIAL HERALD. DELHI, LA., Dec. 19.—William Miles, Esq., one of the first and leading men of this place, and a member of the city council, died at his residence at 4 o'clock this morning of pneumonia. To say friends, means that he leaves the entire community to sympathize with his sorrow stricken wife and children.

Skipped for Parts Unknown.

JACKSON, Dec. 19.—Yesterday Miller & Didlake, merchants of Steen's Creek, near Jackson, sent one of their employes, Jno. W. Green, in whom they had great confidence, with a load of cotton here for sale. After selling the cotton and receiving therefor five hundred dollars, four hundred of which was in silver, he skipped for parts unknown, leaving no trace behind. He left his team standing in Jackson.

Senators Urged to Oppose the Confirmation of Mr. Sparks.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Western senators are receiving letters in great numbers urging them to oppose the confirmation of Land Commissioner Sparks because of his recent rulings. Mr. Sparks was confirmed by the senate as commissioner of the general land office on the 25th day of last March.

Intense Excitement Prevailing.

DALLAS, TEX., Dec. 19.—News was received here at 1:30 o'clock this morning from Montgomery county, that the greatest excitement prevails there over the assembling of several hundred armed men, who have determined to lynch the negro Jackson, who a few days ago murdered the family of Robert Smith, after having robbed the house. The sheriff has the jail guarded as securely as he has been able to arrange, but it is believed the mob will overcome the force, as men are congregating from all parts of the country, and by daylight will probably number 2,000.

A Fall of Twelve Hundred Feet.

DENVER, COL., Dec. 19.—While seven men were being hoisted to the surface in Solitario mine, near Neuvanasville, Gilpin county, last evening, a rock fell from above and struck Charles Warren on the head knocking him out of the bucket. The men tried to catch him but failed. The bucket was about 450 feet from the surface at time. An exploring party found a piece of his jaw bone at the 1,200 feet level and a piece of his skull at 1,300 feet level where his coat was also found. His body fell about 1,300 feet and is now in the water at the bottom of the shaft.

Gen. Butler Interviewed on the Boycott of Fifth Avenue Hotel.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—A reporter called on Gen. Butler yesterday at the Fifth Avenue hotel, and asked him about his position in regard to the boycott of that hotel by the Central Labor Union. The general said: "I have heard nothing about any boycott; I know nothing about any boycott in any way, shape or manner; I haven't even seen anything about it in the papers."

Mr. Randall Convinced.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—A Washington special says: "It is reported that Mr. Randall is convinced that Morrison's plan for the revision of the house rules will be successful, and has decided to press a constitutional amendment which will authorize the president to veto parts of any appropriation bill which he might consider excessive, without defeating the whole bill."

An Affair That Has Created Considerable Excitement.

GALENA, ILL., Dec. 19.—A constable from this city made a levy yesterday, to satisfy a judgment, on the furniture and library of Father Berup, Catholic priest of East Dubuque. The latter locked the officer in the house and kept him prisoner for several hours. He released the latter, and subsequently barred his doors and refused to permit the constable to remove the property levied upon. A warrant of arrest was sworn out against Father Berup for resisting an officer, and an effort will be made to take him into custody. The affair has created considerable excitement.

Little Confidence Felt as to the Truth of the Report.

BOSTON, Dec. 19.—It was rumored that Secretary Lamar had decided to reopen the Bell patents. Little confidence was felt as to the truth of the report, yet it was sufficient to break the stock from \$1.80 to \$1.62, from which it rallied to \$1.75, with a reaction to \$1.71.

Anti-Chinese Association.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., Dec. 19.—A citizens anti-Chinese association was organized here last night with a large membership. The association has for its object the furtherance of legislation for ridding California of Chinese and displacement of Chinese by white labor.