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Turtles Catch a Thief. A native traveler in Japan bought two snapping turtles, and being afraid that he would be charged heavily for their transportation as live animals on the train, he placed them in a small trunk which he carried. When he got on the train he held the trunk so carefully under his arm that a thief who was in the crowd was sure the man had something valuable in the box. So he got into the same car and took an adjoining seat. Taking the first opportunity, he cut a small hole in the trunk with a sharp knife and slipped in his hand. About this time the turtles concluded that there was "something doing," and they took hold of his fingers in a hearty way. Gritting his teeth the thief tried to withdraw his hand, but he could not. Then he howled, and the owner of the trunk seized him and turned him over to the train people, who at the next station gave him to a policeman. The incident, however, was not closed until the traveler was fined for violation of the railway regulations. Punishment was thus meted out in a double dose.—Golden Days.

Queer Swiss Colony. A Utopian society has established itself in Ascona, a little place on the borders of Italy and Switzerland. This little society, which numbers 38 individuals, seeks to solve the problem of how to live happily. The members are pledged to observe certain simple rules of living, which they have carried out now for three years. They eat no meat, but live principally on fruits and herbs, and they wear one simple garment only, and no hats. There are 16 women in the sect. They know no laws save those of nature, and they amuse themselves with Wagnerian music. The founder of the colony is a Belgian. Each new member is initiated on his finding sufficient money to buy a plot of land, by the cultivation of which he is expected to support himself.—N. Y. Sun.

Town Doubly Incorporated. A peculiar complication has arisen in Oregon over the question whether a town incorporated two times over is legally incorporated at all. A senate bill and a house bill incorporating the town of Adams, in Umatilla county, were passed by both houses and reached the governor, who signed them both. They were supposed to be exactly alike, but on examination it was found that the boundaries are slightly differently defined. In the bill which last became law and thus superseded the first bill the boundary lines do not go completely around the town.—Chicago Chronicle.

Bear's Suicide. An old black bear kept in a zoo at Dallas, Tex., became violent a few days ago and tried to tear itself to pieces and beat its brains out against the walls and bars of its den. The animal had refused to eat for two months. Finally it jumped into the water tank and held its head under until drowned. It was a clear case of suicide. About two years ago the bear killed its cubs and devoured them. A year later it drowned its mate in the tank.—Chicago Post.

Salt-peter from the Air. Prof. Muthmann, of the Polytechnic academy at Munich, has demonstrated that salt-peter can be produced from the air by the aid of electricity at less than a quarter of its present cost. Referring to the fact that nitric acid can be formed by passing electric currents through moist air between platinum poles, Prof. Muthmann asserts that suitable apparatus is all that is now needed for the manufacture of nitrates on a large scale.—Science.

Wanted Immediate Delivery. "And is this to be the end of it all?" gasped the youth with the noisy tie. "You have surmised it," answered the fair party in a tone that was evidently fresh from the refrigerator. "True, my salary is not very obese," he ventured, "but next year I am to get a raise and—"

"Chop it off," interrupted the human icicle. "I'm not dealing in futures."—Chicago Daily News.

Another Point of View. "Death loves a shining mark," sighed the man with a mourning band on his hat. "Yes," rejoined the student of human nature, "but the fact that the idiot who rocks the boat usually escapes goes to prove that it doesn't necessarily love a soft one."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Frankness. "I cannot marry you," she said. "Why do you say that?" he demanded. "Because—because I want you to propose again."

There's nothing like getting all of a luxury that's possible.—Chicago Post.

A Happy Medium. Furniture Salesman—Here are two chairs—a Louis XIV that is worth \$10 and a Louis XVI for \$18. Buyer—I like the last one, but haven't you perhaps a Louis XV? I don't want to pay more than \$12.—Woman's Home Companion.

Few Cyclones in Germany. Cyclones are rare in Germany, but a few weeks ago there was one in southwestern Hanover which uprooted trees and played various "American" pranks. Several villages in its path had narrow escapes.—N. Y. Post.

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Europe's Trackless Trolleys. Europe leads America in the introduction of the trackless trolley, through the process had its origin here. In a recent number of Cosmos, M. Emile Gavrucci gives a description of some of the systems employed there, the Schliemann, Siemens-Halske and Lombard Guerin, all of which are in practical operation with results which are, on the whole, satisfactory, and promises a great future for the type of vehicle thus impelled and guided. "They can traverse narrow and tortuous streets and serve regions where the traffic is not large enough to warrant the installation of a regular electric railroad." Experiments in this line have been going on in Europe since 1882, and have now reached a point of success which promises speedily to make the business practicable and profitable, thus causing its general adoption wherever conditions call for it.—Boston Globe.

Salmon-Catching Centers. The six chief salmon catching centers on the Pacific coast, in the order of the quantity of fish packed (in 1901), are Alaska, Puget Sound (British Columbia), the Columbia river, the Oregon coast, the Washington coast and the California rivers. About four-fifths of the entire catch was in American waters, one-fifth in Canadian. For their extent and importance—the annual product now being worth over \$20,000,000, employing an army of men and millions of capital—the Pacific salmon fisheries are of surprisingly recent development. Like every industry in the northwest, they have seemingly sprung into importance overnight—yesterday nothing, to-day a business of world-wide recognition.—Ray Stannard Baker, in Century.

The Czar Among His Subjects. During the czar's recent visit to Moscow, the populace had an unusual opportunity to see him at close quarters. He was taking a walk, with members of his family, on the wall of the Kremlin. At the Nikolski gate he had the choice of returning or going down into the street and up again to the wall on the other side. He chose the latter alternative, and walked, without military escort, through a dense concourse of his subjects. These were wild with joy at seeing the imperial couple among them; many began to sob, and the czar himself had tears in his eyes.—London News.

Costly Bugs. An entomologist estimates that bugs cost this country about \$250,000,000 a year. The grasshopper eats up \$90,000,000 worth of vegetation if he is feeling well, the Hessian fly \$50,000,000, the chinch bug \$10,000,000, and the potato bug \$8,000,000 worth. Tobacco worms, moth, squash bugs, beetles, etc., make up the rest. Entomologists have been studying the problem of bug destruction for many years, but progress toward the desired end is not as rapid as it should be.—Minneapolis Times.

Japanese English. The Japanese tradesmen of Tokio are becoming very fond of hanging out English signs. In one street appears the notice: "Restaurant shop; European nourishing cakes." Another shopkeeper has in large letters over his doorway the words "Photographer executed." The principal barber of the town calls himself a "head-cutter," and has taken to wearing a long white gown of approved nightshirt pattern.—Detroit Free Press.

Cost of War and Education. The statement that one battleship costs more than the value of the 94 buildings of Harvard university has been questioned, but the official reports state that the Oregon, which is the most expensive battleship in the United States navy, cost \$6,575,032.76. The valuation of all the buildings and land of Harvard university is \$5,300,000.—Chicago Chronicle.

The Dentist Hurt King. "Did the dentist hurt you much, Elsie?" asked her mother, solicitously. "Yes, mamma," replied the small girl; "but he was very nice every time he did."

Missed the Last Word. "And was her death sudden?" asked the coroner of the principal witness. "It was," replied the witness. "The automobile knocked her senseless; she never spoke afterward."

The Temple of Confucius. The College of Confucius, the old university of China, has for 3,000 years borne the name of Kwotszekie. Its main building, the finest temple of Confucius in China, has 300 volumes in its court, on which are engraved the names of its 60,000 graduates.—Educational Journal.

Ice All the Time. There is a point near the famous Stony cave, in the Catskill mountains, where ice may be found on any day of the year. This locality is known as the Notch, and is walled on all sides by steep mountains, some of which are more than 3,000 feet high.—N. Y. Sun.

Rainbows. Mr. Wetcellar (of Lonelyville)—We have got a green German girl at our house. How are you fixed at yours? The Cheerful Idiot—About the same. We've got a Swede girl who is blue all the time.—N. Y. Sun.



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Kruger, No. 1447, Lawrenzius, No. 1937,

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The Oldest Tree. The cypress of Soma, in Lombardy, is said to be the oldest tree in the world of which there is authentic record. It is supposed to have been planted in the year of the birth of Christ, but the Abbe Belize tells us that there is a chronicle at Milan which speaks of it as a grown tree in the time of Julius Caesar. A rival to this is the eucalyptus, or gum tree, near the foot of Mount Wellington in Tasmania, which is 250 feet high and fully 30 feet in diameter. A gigantic trunk in the province of Oaxaca, in Mexico, measures 200 feet in circumference at its base, and according to an average rate of growth its age would exceed 3,000 years. Cypress trees in parts of America are very long-lived; by counting the concentric rings where they have been sawn through it has been estimated that 1,600 years is an uncommon period of growth with them. Many other examples have been quoted of veteran trees which grow in California, Ceylon and elsewhere, and some British oaks and yews are of extreme old age.—Boston Globe.

Tears and the Insane. "Tears are said to be a sign of sanity, or at least of the readiness of reason. No maniac ever weeps," said a man on his way through an insane asylum. But the keeper who was guiding him shook his head. "A popular fallacy, a superstition," he declared. "The hopelessly insane weep just as much as other folk. Many people, though, believe in the hopeful significance of tears among the insane. Only the other day a young girl whose mother is confined here said to me, after a visit to her mother's room: 'I am very happy. Mamma cried this afternoon. It is the first time she has cried. She is sure to get well now, isn't she?' The poor young woman was so overjoyed that I hadn't the heart to disillusionize her. I agreed that her mother's tears were a hopeful sign, and she went home with a lighter heart than she had for a long time. Time will teach her gradually, as it has taught many other persons, that tears, shed or unshed, have no bearing, one way or the other, on insanity."—Philadelphia Record.

Stuffed Turnips, Creole Style. A Creole receipt for stuffed turnips suggests new possibilities for a humble vegetable. Pare the turnips and cook until tender in salted water. Wash carefully two quarts of young turnip tops, and cook until tender in one quart of boiling water. A piece of browned bacon added to the greens is a great improvement. When the greens are done press out the water, chop fine, season with vinegar and pepper, and fill the turnips, which have been scooped out with a spoon. Cover with crumbs and butter and brown in the oven.—N. Y. Post.

He Waited for the Finish. "Before a man is married," said the humorous lecturer, "he is only half a man." "There," said the maid of uncertain age, as she nudged her escort, "did you hear that?" "And after marriage," continued the lecturer, "he loses his identity entirely."

Her Specialty. He (at the reception)—And you neither sing nor play? She—No. "Then I suppose you either read or paint?" "No; my specialty is giving imitations of the society young man." "How's that?" "I merely sit around and try to look intelligent."—Chicago Daily News.

Works Both Ways. "If we had more money at our command," declare the polar explorers, "we could find the north pole in no time." "If you had more north poles," retort the plutocrats, "you could discover one once in awhile, too."

Smart Druggist. "What in the world are you doing with cloves on your soda water counters?" asked the man who had dropped in for a celery and vichy. "Oh, that's for the benefit of the Willie boys," explained the druggist. "They munch them and then tell the girls what a racket they have been out on."—Chicago Daily News.

Published at Once. Elderly Female (lecturing on temperance)—And I argued with my husband for 12 long years, and at last induced him to sign the pledge. I was so overcome with joy that I threw my arms around his neck and kissed him. Voice from the audience (seriously)—Served him right.—Stray Stories.

For Consolation. "I don't suppose he meant anything unkind," said the young woman, "but it was a very startling coincidence." "What do you mean?" "Just before Harold and I got married his friends persuaded him to join a 'don't worry club.'"—Chicago Journal.

Where Figures Lie. "Say, pa," queried little Johnny Bumpnickle, "what's a gossip?" "A gossip, my son," replied the old man, "is a person who can make five by adding two and two together."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Gravels and Ties. Nagby—I notice that a New York pair fell out and fought over a gravel sent the husband by mail. Waggby—Yes; the wife, perhaps, resented the springing up of new ties.—Baltimore American.