STUDYING COTTON.

A German Lieutenant Sent Here by the Berlin Komite.

HE IS PLEASED WITH THE SOUTH

The Mexican Weevil is Injuring the Texas Crops Very Seriously, Views of the Negro Labor Question,

Lieut. C. F. A. Weydig, an officer in the German army and an official of the Agricultural Komite of Berlin, is registered at Wright's hotel. He is here for the purpose of investigating the cotton industry in this country, and comes with a strong letter of reference from the secretary of agriculture at Washington, commending him to the courtesy of the planters and manufacturers in the south.

Like many of the officers in the German army Lieut. Weydig is a distinguished looking fellow, being more than six feet in height and as straight as an Indian. His life has been one of adventure and he seems to have formed a passionate attachment for southerners. He intended to leave the city yesterday, but was persuaded not to do so by the city editor of The State in order that he might visit the Olympia mill. He is at present located at Sanz Bay, East Africa, and has charge of the experiments that the German government is making in that country in cotton growing. For the past five months Lieut. Weydig has been traveling in the south investigating cotton conditions, and the result of these observations are more than ordinarily interesting.

"The south," said the lieutenant, "need never have any fear that any country in the world can grow cotton that will in any way hurt her interests. It is perhaps superfluous for me to say that her sea island cotton is the finest in the world and she has lands enough to grow millions of more bales when she has mastered the labor question."

"Your laborer in Africa is nearly all negroes, is it not?" was asked.

"Yes. Niggers, niggers; we have them everywhere. I only wish we could send you a few million of them."

The German government, as is well known, has no such sentiment about the negro as that which brought on the war between the north and south. In German East Africa there are some 5,000,000 negroes and about 900 white men. The negroes are nevertheless under absolute subjection and for the smallest infraction of the laws of the colonies are most severely punished. They are freemen by courtesy and are paid small sums for their labors, but it is doubtful if any slave masters ever handled negroes as do the German officials. For all that it is exceedingly difficult to make them work, and Lieut. Weydig said that the south had his sympathy in its labor battles.

"I have," said the lieutenant, "traveled more than 900 miles in Africa without seeing a single white man, and I know the nigger."

The negro in South Africa would be absolutely uncontrolling if it were not for what is called by courtesy the law. As a matter of fact the law is a few Gatling guns that now and then mow them down like sheep if they don't make cotton.

But that is neither here nor there, and it was not a matter that Lieut. Weydig cared to discuss for obvious reasons. He only smiled knowingly when the subject was broached and said that they were freemen, but "were made to work." To the southern negro of today this will perhaps be a novel idea of freedom. Lieut. Weydig had recently visited Booker Washington at Tuskeegee, and he said he thought he was a fine man. He did not explain why he visited the negro educator and the writer did not press the subject, but he gathered that it was a matter of curiosity to see an educated negro more than anything else, as it has not been reported that the German government proposes to attempt to educate the millions of negroes she now has under her rule. It is not that sort of a government. The German idea is that the negro needs work.

Lieut. Weydig was greatly interested in his recent visit to Texas.

"The Mexican weevil is the most serious thing that menaces the south," said the lieutenant. "It is making great inroads in Texas and it is only a short time when it will work up in Tennessee and in other parts of the south, I fear. The Texas State government has already offered $50,000 for a remedy for this evil, and I think in time something will be found that will do away with the pest. It is certainly a very serious matter. In the State of Texas alone I find that it caused a loss of $11,000,000 last year. It is a fine State and a great pity that it should be handicapped by the pest."

Mr. W. B. Smith-Whaley extended the courtesies of the mammoth Olympia mill Friday afternoon and great was the admiration of the German official, not only for the big institution itself but for the tireless energy which has enabled Mr. Whaley to build 19 cotton mills, among them, this one, the largest in the world—more than the great German government has even contemplated building.

"Where is the largest cotton mill in Germany?" the lieutenant was asked.

"In Salesia."

"What is its capacity?"

"Forty thousand spindles."

Mr. Whaley modestly informed the German official that the capacity of the Olympia was 100,300 spindles now and that he contemplated making it just eight times as large as it was. The latter was very quiet for the next little while and when he and the writer had parted from Mr. Whaley he inquired rather anxiously what manner of man was he.

The almost beautiful cleanliness of the mills impressed the visitor most favorably and he frequently commented on the neatness and attractiveness of the little homes in the mill village, a compliment which Mr. Whaley doubtless appreciated, as the German government and people are famed for their cleanliness in their industries and in all matters, in fact.

Mr. Whaley told the lieutenant that mill owners were more anxious than the State governments for the welfare of their children in the mill and he pointed out with some pride the churches and schools that the mill owners maintain at their own great expense for the benefit of the operators. He said he hoped to see the age limit made 16 years.

"We have the interest," said Mr. Whaley, "of our employes absolutely at heart and we are doing things daily for their welfare that bring our reputation as business men seriously into question." Your average German is a cold business proposition. He has something to sell and he wants his price for it. He pays his workman his hire and the latter then has to look out for himself. So when Mr. Whaley informed the lieutenant that he proposed to put up the best hospital for his employes that his money could buy the latter's countenance showed another wide latitude of surprise.

He expressed his admiration over and over again for the remarkable mill and thanked Mr. Whaley very warmly for his kindness.

The lieutenant expressed his great admiration and friendship for southern people. "They are the most hospitable and delightful people that I have ever met," he said, "and I have traveled much. New York is a great city, but it is dollar, dollar, dollar there all the time and one gets tired of it sometimes. Every moment of the time I have spent in the south has been pleasant."

The lieutenant is going to take several American young men back to Germany with him. He has already engaged some two or three and has instructions from the Berlin Komite to engage some more. They must be young men who are educated in the agricultural colleges that make a specialty of cotton production. Lieut. Weydig's station in German East Africa is Sanz Bay, but he will not return there for some months. He left the city Saturday morning.—The State.

The Club Against the Home.

"Club Life vs. Home Life" was the subject chosen by Rev. George Whiteman from which he recently delivered a sermon in Buffalo, N. Y., He referred to the late tragedies in that city, and drew a lesson from them that should be remembered. Recent events, he said, have revealed the gay irreligious life which many of Buffalo's more prosperous people live. There is a growing godlessness among many well to do persons. The type of depravity among persons in the higher circles is often worse than in the slums of the city. This gay godless way of living often manifests itself in what is spoken of as club life. I admit that clubs differ in their aims, but I believe that that which is mechanically called club life is opposed to the interests of the individual, of the church and the nation. In referring specially to the Burdick murder he said "a murder is committed in our city and two divorce cases are revealed." These he said, have some relation to club life. This is an awful condition but the facts warranted the charge. He closed by saying. "America is fast following in the steps of the old Roman empire, the home is despised; children are an encumbrace; a poodle dog is of more value than a baby. Wealth and pride consume the life blood of the nation and aristocratic weakness saps democratic vigor." This is a true indictment, and unless such warnings as these are heeded our country will perish as did the great Roman empire did. Thoughtless people will refer to Mr. Wideman as a calamity howler, but he is not. He sees things as they are, and he has the courage to denounce the sins of those who are rich and occupy a conspicious place in the public eye. The hope of this great country is a fearless ministry and an incorruptible press.

Senator Tillman Out West.

United Strtes Senator Tillman delivered an address on "The Negro Question From a Southern Standpoint," before an audience of 1,800 university students, citizens and lawmakers at Madison, Wis., Thursday night. He was greeted with the stirring university yell. A rather sensational incident occured while Senator Tillman was discussing the Indianola postoffice case. After stating the southern view of the affair, he asked whether the audience approved of President Roosevelt's action and there was applause. Being uncertain whether the applause was intended as an indorsement of the president's action, the senator asked how it was meant. He was told that it was meant as an endorsement of the president. This aroused the senator. He went into the details of the Indianola affair and when he concluded asked his hearers whether it would not have been better for the president to have kept the office opened and punished the few hot-heads that caused the trouble than to have punished the entire community by closing the office, requesting those to raise their hands who supported the president's action. Only a few raised their hands. In the main his address was much like his other recent utterances on the same subject. He condemned the negro to eternal inferiority to the white man.

Sort of Men Girls Like.

As a man looks to a woman to be womanly, a woman expects a man to be manly; therefore, you need hardly wonder that she prefers to be wooed by a man whose actions tell of determination and resolve to one whose attitude is one of meekness and chronic shyness, who stammers and blushes whenever he ventuees to address his lady-love in public. While the timid lover is worshipping from afar, hoping yet fearing that his worship is understood by his divinity, the more manly lover steps in, and by almost sheer materfulness and determination, combined with tender courtesy and a wish to please, gains the prize, leaving the timid one to moan his loss in silence with a heart filled with the bitter thought that had he only been a little more confident in his wooing the fair one might have been his. In love affairs women like masters, not slaves; they like to feel that they are being wooed, not that they are doing the wooing. Therefore, those young men who wish to prove successful lovers must cast aside all bashfulness and timidity and must not only believe in the old but true saying, "Only the brave deserve the fair," but must act up to it.

Many Want Jobs.

The News and Courier says the most important fact which has come out in connection with the Crum situation is that more than one hundredred white men have applied for positions in the Custom House under the negro collector. If this list could be secured for publication it would open the eyes of the city, or, at least, that was the statement made by a prominent Republican. The name of a well-know citizen has been mentioned in connection with the deputy collectorship and the chances favor his appointment. Crum has made no promises, so far as the politicians can ascertain, although it has leaked out in the quiet office-seeking circles that the list of candidates is resplendent with the names of men, some of whom would naturally be regarded as opposed to the nomination of a negro to any important Federal office.

A HUGE SWINDLE

In Which United States Officials are Implicated.

A special dispatch from Washington to the Spartanburg Journal says the development that a connection of government officials with the get-rich-quick concerns was alleged in charges filed with the president caused a sensation in Washington.

As far as possible the details of the charges and the progress of the investigation ordered by the president are being kept secret, but in official circles the matter is being discussed with much interest.

It is said that the plan pursued was the securing of names of shady concerns against which the government was about to proceed. These firms would then be approached with a proposition to put their business in a shape acceptable to the government for a certain stated amount down and a weekly or monthly payment. This being agreed to, the way was made clear whereby the get-rich-quick fellows continued operations without fear of molestation.

The amount alleged to have been secured from the shady companies is not settled definitely by rumor, but it is averred by some that it reached into more than a million dollars, which were divided among a certain few.

It is averred by others that the sum total will be far larger than this, because the operation included fully half a score or more of fly-by-night schemes in business, each of which was forced to contribute liberally.

The investigation by order of the president will be pushed vigorously. Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow, who has charge of it, is ordered to go to the bottom of it, no matter who may be involved.

General Tyner, whose retirement was demanded by the president not because he was personally implicated in the scandal, but because of his advanced age and the desire to place a stronger man in his place, denies that there was any wrong doing in connection with his office respecting the rights of "turf investment companies" to use the mails.

He says that there was not a word of evidence in the report of the postoffice inspector to prove that the concerns were in the nature of lottery or fraudulent in their character, and therefore the only course open to the office was to allow them to use the mails.

General Tyner says that Harrison J. Barrett, his nephew by marriage, and formerly assistant in his office, had, as an attorney, represented one of the turf companies, but this was only after Barrett had severed his connection with the department, he avers.

General Tyner says he took up the cases of concerns alleged to be fraudulent or on a lottery basis, and, after investigating, ordered proceedings dropped. He dictated a letter announcing that no further steps would be taken, reserving the right, however, in the last paragraph of his letter, to reopen the cases. One company published this letter, omitting the last paragraph of warning and the department was severely criticised for the issuance of the letter in question.

AN ELEPHANT DIES AT SEA.

Whole Crew of a Steamer Was Kept Busy By Jingo.

The elephant Jingo, said to have been larger than Jumbo, died at sea on the steamer Georgic, which arrived at New York Wednesday from Liverpool. The animal's death occurred March 12th and the huge body was buried at sea. An animal show brought Jingo in London. The elephant had not traveled since infancy, and from the time of sailing from Liverpool it fretted and pined away, Jingo was 22 years old, 12 feet high, weighed six ton and was valued at $50,000.

For 60 hours preceeding its death the mammoth beast trumpeted without cessation and twice knocked down its keeper, Thomas Lawrence, who attempted to pacify it. The cries of the elephant aroused the leopards and tigers which were on the ship and they, too, joined in the cry which for three days kept the crew of the Georgic on its guard.

As each day passed Jingo seemed to grow weaker he squirmed in his narrow cage in an effort to get out. He was securely chained to the cage in such a position in the aft hatchway that escape was impossible. On the fifth day out the animal's condition became such that Lawrence gave him whiskey and kept him under the influence of liquor for almost three days. It was then that Jingo became even more savage than ever and began the trumpeting.

The entire crew went to Lawrence's assistances on the 11th day and joined with him in an effort to pacify Jingo. They all failed, however, and twice the beast got its trunk through the bars of the cage and struck the keeper with such force that he was thrown to the deck. The other animals joined in the great noise until about 9 o'clock on the morning of the 12th, when suddenly Jingo's cries ceased. Lawrence ran to the cage to find the animal dead. His carcass was examined and after it was decided it could not be stuffed it was thrown overboard.

On a Sad Mission.

The State says Gov. Heyward was called to Savannah Thursday by the news of the death of his grandmother, Mrs. Duncan L. Clinch, and of his aunt, Mrs. J. H. M. Clinch. The former, who is the widow of Gen. Clinch of Georgia, a general in the Indian war, died in Charleston, but her remains were taken to Savannah for interment. It is a sad singular circumstance that she and her daughter-in-law died on the same day. Gov Heyward hopes to be in his office Saturday.

AN Ohio man with $50,000 in bank has gone to work on a farm as a day laborer and his relatives are attempting to have him declared insane and his property placed under their control. Things have come to a pretty pass when a man who is competent to amass $50,000 must have his mental faculty questioned because he prefers to live the most wholesome life known. If the insane asylums of the country had to depend upon the farms for their inmates they would never have reached their present capacities.

A NEBRASKA woman committed suicide because the newspapers and magazines declined to publish her poems, which causes the Washington Post to remark that there are times when the work of proecting the public causes sad cases like this.

A NEW INVENTION

Of a Columbia Mechanic That May Revolutionize Locomotion.

MUCH IS CLAIMED FOR A VALVE,

Which is Said to be Able to Effect a Saving of at Least One-fifth of the Coal Used for Fueld.

The Columbia State says "The Brooks Improved Steam Valve company" of that city has been notified that the patent office has granted an "allowance" on the contrivance which this company has sought to have patented. The allowance means that the authorities have acted favorably and that the latters patent will be issued in a few days.

The valve which this company has in its possession is said to be one of the greatest inventions of recent years. The inventor is a machinist who spent 18 years in the Southern's shops in Columbia, but for come reason his name is withheld on the ground that he himself does not for the present want his identity made public.

The inventor put his contrivance into the hands of a friend, Col. U. R. Brooks, who is the clerk of the supreme court, and the latter, with the advice of Gen. M. C. Butler, has been able to get it patented. The object of the valve is to economize the use of coal and to increase the speed of a locomotive. Colonel Brooks believes firmly in its practicability.

To a reporter of The State he said Wednesday: "We claim for it that we can save from 20 to 30 per cent. of the fuel used on locomotives. We claim that we can increase the speed from 20 to 30 per cent. This invention will get rid of the 'used steam' which is called 'back pressure' and retards the progress of the engines as they are working today. The valve is very simple in its construction, so simple that every machinist who has examined it is struck immediately with its practicability, and many have wondered why they never thought of it."

When the application for a patent had been filed some time ago there was a protest from the attorneys of several inventors who were endeavoring to perfect something of the same kind and claimed the right of priority. Colonel Brooks went to Washington and was accompanied by Mr. J. B. Edwards, a practical machinist. The latter explained the valve to the satisfaction of the patent office and, upon his showing, the "allowance" was issued. At the suggestion of General Butler, patents under the laws of all foreign countries have been applied for by the company.

A practical test of the valve will be made in a few days. "We have obtained permission from the superintendent of motive power of one of the largest railroad systems to have an engine fitted with this appliance in order to make calculations," said Colonel Brooks. "When we went into his office this superintendent glanced at the model and said, indifferently, 'Oh, I have seen a great many valves like this.' Mr. Edwards interjected, 'You never saw anything like this in your life.' That caused the railroad official to make a minute inspection, and he was so well satisfied that he ordered an engine placed at our disposal when the patent shall have been secured. 'If it will save us one per cent. of coal it is valuable, but if it will save us 20 per cent. it is the greatest thing we could get hold of,' the superintendent said to us.

"The engine will be examined and tested as to speed, coal consuming capacity, etc., before the appliances are attached," continued Colonel Brooks, "and the other tests will be made to show the merits of the valve."

The practicability of the valve must be settled before any plans for the future will be made, but Colonel Brooks would like to have the contrivance manufactured in Columbia.

White Flour and Appendicitis.

The notion advanced by the humorists that appendicitis is a disease invented for the purpose of conferring social distinction may have to be abandoned if the theory of an Illinois physician is tenable.

This physician declares that appendicitis was rare before the new processes of rolling wheat were invented. He says: "About the date mentioned (1875) there began to be a general change from the old methods of grinding grain to the present method of roller mills and excessively fine bolting cloths. This plan of milling began first in the large cities, and appendicitis began to increase first there. Later the new process crowded out the small mills in the country, and the people could not get flour made by the old process. They bought products of the large milling establishments, and then the farmers began to have appendicitis." He adds, "Experienced millers will tell you that the fine flour is less desirable flour than that made by the old process, but the trade demands it chiefly on account of its whiteness."

The Illinois doctor says also that in the last few years appendicitis has become one of the most common of diseases, and he regards the discovery of the cause of its increase as of supreme importance. So it is, but still one physician's opinion does not settle it.

"The main difference between the New York and Chicago horse shows," says the Chicago Tribune, "is the amount of diamonds displayed. New York beats Chicago about two barrels." This causes the Kansas City Star to observe that the main difference between the Kansas City horse show and those in New York and Chicago is in the figures on which to display diamonds, and in this particular Kansas City beats both of its rivals by a thousand miles.

Mr. Edison can do the traveling public a real service by dropping the storage battery for a few moments and turning his attention to inventing some system whereby the crew and passengers of a through express train may be able to defend themselves against any lone robber that may take a notion to loot the train.

The Newberry Observer says: "Because it would take so long to get good roads by an annual appropriation is no reason why the work should not begin that way. Rome was not built in a day, and we are not going to get good roads immediately by any system." That is true.

BILL ARP WRITES HISTORY

For the Benefits of the Young People of the Country.

So many young people who are thirsting for historical knowledge write to me for help that I feel encouraged and will answer their inquiries as far as I can. These young people in the country towns have schools to go to, but they lack books—reading books, cyclopedias, biographies, and if I was as rich as Carnegie I would plan a library of such books in every community. I would have a million sets of some standard cyclopedia printed for every school, even if they cost fifty million dollars. That would diffuse knowledge among the young people and do more good than all he is doing in the big cities. But what we most need in the South are historical books that will be standard with us and relate the truth about the South and secession and the Confederacy and slavery and the war and reconstruction. I had a cyclopedia that gave a whole column of apology for old John Brown and the pedigree of every Northern race horse, and no mention of John B. Gordon or Forrest or any of our Southern poets or authors or orators. I swapped it off at half price for the International by Dodd, Meade & Co. The tributes in that work to Dr. Davis and Lee and Jackson are all that could be desired and more than was expected.

I wonder what has become of that great Southern publishing house that was projected in Atlanta some time ago. That is what we want and must have to perpetuate Southern history and defend our fathers and grandfathers from the slanders of Northern foes. It is Northern histories, Northern novels and Northern plays that have already poisoned the minds of thousands of our young people. Only yesterday I glanced at a serial story in an Atlata paper and the first thing I saw was a verse which read:

"John Brown's body lies mouldering in the ground,
But his soul keeps marching on."

In a Missouri paper I saw where a Yankee troupe were playing "Uncle Tom's Cabin." And now a fool fellow from Wisconsin wants to get our Governors to appoint delegates to a convention in Atlanta to determine the race problem, and it is said that that man Spooner is at the bottom of it to get up a Presidental boom for himself. I suspected there was a niggor in the woodpile, for these Northern politicians never do anything from patriotic, unselfish motives. Hanna's scheme fell through and Spooner thought he could patch it up. But the South never was more aroused and united on the negro question and will resent all interference, whether it comes from Washington or Wisconsin. Wisconsin! What impudence! A State whose foreign population is 62 per cent. of the whole, and of these there are 88,000 who can't speak English, and only 760 negroes in the State and three times as many Indians. What does Wisconsin know or care about our race problem?

In the last few days I have received three letters from young people wanting to know something about the Confederate flags, what were the designs and who designed them. I wish that I could sketch them and paint them in this letter, but all I can do is to describe them and give their history. There were four in all, but only two lived to see the end at Appomattox.

No. 1, or the "Stars and Bars," was adopted by the Confederate Congress at Montgomery. Its stars were on a blue field and its red and white bars made it look somewhat like the Stars and Stripes, and sometimes was mistaken for the United States flag, and so General Beauregard designed.

No. 2, "The Battle Flag," and General Joe E. Johnson adopted it, and it was never changed. It was a blue cross, or rather an X studded with stars and set on a red field.

No. 3. In May, 1863, the Confederate Congress adopted a national flag. It was a miniature battle flag set on a white field that had a white border at the side and at the bottom. But it proved to be a mistake, for it had too much white and afar off was mistaken for a flag of truce.

And so on March, 1865, Congress, adopted No. 4 as the national flag. This had the same battle flag on a blue field, but the white border was smaller and a red one put on the outside of that. This flag did not wave very long, only about a month, but nevertheless it remains as the national flag of the Confederate States.

But the dear old battle flag No. 2 was the fighting banner of every company. Our wives and our daughters made them for the boys in gray, and many of them were smuggled back home again after the surrender and still kept as household treasures. Our boys, the Rome Light Guards, had one, and one night the young people gave a tableaux performance in the city hall to raise a little money to put some benches in the desecrated churches, for all the pews had been taken out and converted into horse troughs for the staff horses. One scene in the tableaux represented a battle field where women were ministering to the wounded and the dying, and one dying soldier, the ensign, had this old tattered and war-stained flag grasped in his hand just as he held it when he fell.

The Spanish commandant of the post was there with his wife, and when he discovered the flag, got furiously mad. He jumped up on his seat and yelled: "Take dat thing away, dat is treason—dat is an insult to me and de United States. I send for my soldiers and I arrest the whole party.' He ran wildly down the stairs and across the street to his quarters and came back quickly with half a dozen Dutchmen in arms to make the arrest. He marched the young men over to his office, but paroled the young ladies until he could hear from General Thomas, whose headquarters were in Louisville. I was mayor then and we had some hot words. He said finally he would release the young men until he could hear from General Thomas. So I wrote to General Thomas by the same mail. He very graciously forgave us, but warned us not to do so any more, for the display of a Confederate flag was treason and the punishment of treason was death.

This is enough about flags. There is no treason in displaying one now. Time is a good doctor and Time keeps rolling on. My wife and I had another wedding last Saturday—and good friends were calling all the afternoon to say good words and congratulate us on our long and happy married life. Early in the morning, while my wife and the family were at breakfast, I came in late and slipping up behind her planted a venerable kiss upon her classic brow.

"She half enclosed me in her arms,
She clasped me in a meek embrace;
(No she didn't, either.)
And bending back her head, looked up
And gazed into my face."

Yes, she did that, for it took her by surprise. I hadn't kissed her since the first day of last June—which was her birthday. Twice a year satisfies her now. BILL ARP.

Shaky Rope Bridges.

In the wilds of South America many rope bridges exist, and in writing of them a traveler, who published through Messrs. Longmans "The Great Mountains and Forests of South America," says: "There being no trees here, such bridges as were necessary were usually constructed of a couple of ropes stretched across a chasm, upon which was spread a rough kind of matting made of pliant brushwood or a sort of rush. Such bridges swung about fearfully and cracked under the foot as if about to give way. Often I held my breath while passing such a bridge, momentarily expecting the rotten contrivance to part in the middle. There was plenty of evidence in the skeletons of horses and mules on the rocks below that accidents not infrequently occurred, but I was assured that not many men were lost, which, of course, was an exceedingly comforting assurance, especially as I noticed that the guides were careful to see that either I or George was the first to cross these confounded structures. At one of these places we saw on the rocks 300 feet below the skull and bones of two men who had been lost about eight years before."

Snakes Waste Little Time Eating.

A serpent will go for weeks, sometimes even for months, without feeding. Then it may take three rabbits or ducks, one after the other, at a single meal and afterward become torpid while digestion proceeds. When, after a sufficient period of fasting, it gets disposed to eat and a rabbit happens to be introduced into its cage, it may plainly be seen that the rabbit's presence is quickly noticed by it. The snake will begin to move slowly about till it has brought its snout opposite the rabbit's muzzle. Then, in an instant, it will seize the rabbit's head in its mouth, simultaneously coiling its powerful body around it and crushing it to death at once.

The action is so instantaneous that it is impossible for the rabbit to suffer. Certainly it can suffer no more than when killed by a poulterer. The snake does not immediately uncoil its folds, but continues for a time to hold its victim tightly embraced, sometimes rocking itself gently to and fro. Then it slowly unwinds its huge body and once more takes the rabbit's head in its mouth and swallows it.

Superstitions About Bread.

In Brittany when a housewife begins to knead dough she makes a cross with her right hand, the left being placed in the trough. If a cat enters the room, it is believed the bread will not rise. It is supposed that certain women can cause the dough to multiply itself. On the coast of the channel the dough is adjured to imitate the leaven, the miller and the baker and to rise.

The oven is a sacred object and connected with crowds of superstitions. The oven is dedicated, with ceremonies. In certain places in Brittany the wood is watered with blessed water. Bread must not be cooked on certain days, as on Holy Friday or during the night of All Saints, when the ghosts would eat it.

The Introduction of Forks.

Forks are articles of such common household necessity to us that we hardly realize that there was a time, and not so long ago either, when forks were entirely unknown. A knife was used at the table to cut up food, but the food so cut was afterward conveyed by the fingers to the mouth. Rich and poor alike were accustomed to this method and so thought it perfectly correct.

It was about the year 1600 and in the reign of James I. when forks were first introduced into England. This "piece of refinement," we are told, was derived from the Italians.

Serpent Worship In India.

Serpent worship, once very widely diffused, survives in India. Sometimes when Hindoos find a cobra in some crevice in the wall of their house it will often be reverenced, fed and propitiated, and if fear or the death of some one bitten by it induces them to remove it they will handle it tenderly and let it loose in some field. When Hindoos are bitten, they have far more confidence in their magic spell or "muntra" than in any medicine, even if they do not scruple to make use of medical aid.

Fill the Place Well.

Where one man is called to be a hero on some great scale 10,000 men are called to be courteous, gentle, patient. There are conspicuous virtues which make reputation, and there are quiet virtues, the virtues of private life, which make character. It is not every man's duty to fill a large place, but it is every man's duty to fill his own place well.—Christian Evangelist.

A Narrow Margin.

John Stuart Mill was once dining with two brilliant French talkers who were given to monologue. One had possession of the field, and the other was watching him so intently to strike in that Mill exclaimed aloud, "If he stops to breathe, he's gone."

Responsibilities.

"Remember," said the serious citizen, "that wealth has its responsibilities."

"Yes," answered Mr. Cumrox. "So long as you are humble and obscure you can say 'I seen it' and 'I done it' and eat with your knife all you want to."—Washington Star.

Defined.

She—Dear, you have crushed and almost suffocated me. What kind of a hug do you call that?

He—That's a Metropolitan street railway hug.—New York Life.

Falmouth is probably the oldest port in England. It was used by the Phœnicians at least 2,500 years ago.

A MAN out in Indiana is so intensely religious that he whipped his wife because she failed to join him in family prayer. His wife had her hands in dough making bread for her pious husband and it was not convenient to be with him at that moment. When he saw that she was not present he arose from his knees, went to the kitchen and beat her in the face and eyes with his fists. This was a white man who must claim to be a Christian of the strictest sect, but it appears from his brutal act that his religion was of a violent kind and was more in keeping with that of the barbarian than the Christian. He was arrested, and a fine of forty dollars was imposed.

Ancestry of Shoemaking.

There is nothing vulgar about the ancestry of the shoemaking trade in the United States. The first shoemaker came over in the Mayflower. His name was Thomas Beard, and he had an income from the London company of $100 a year and received fifty acres of land on which to settle. Seven years later the city of Lynn was founded, and ever since it has been making shoes for the world. Philip Kertland, a native of Buckinghamshire, was the first shoemaker of the city of Lynn. In George Washington's day Lynn had 200 master workmen and 600 journeymen shoemakers, turning out every year no less than 300,000 pairs of fine shoes.

Navigating the Elbe.

A curious means of moving boats is employed on the river Elbe—a chain 290 miles long at the bottom of the stream, which is too swift to navigate in the usual way. The boats are 180 feet long and provided with 200 horse-power steam engines which turn a drum fastened on the deck. The chain comes in over the bow, passing along on rollers to the drum, around which it is wound three times. The chain is then carried to the stern, where it drops back into the water. The steamers tow five barges containing 1,500 tons.

Logical.

"I could have married either Whipper or Snapper if I'd wanted to, and both of those men whom I refused have since got rich, while you are still as poor as a church mouse."

He—Of course. I've been supporting you all these years. They haven't.

You may be sure young men, says a writer in Success, that, if you do not feel yourself growing in your work and your life broadening and deepening, if your task is not a perpetual tonic to you, you have not found your place. If your work is drudgery to you, if you are always longing for the lunch hour, or the closing hour, to release you from the work that bores you, you may be sure that you have not found your niche. Unless you go to your task with greater delight than you leave it, it belongs to some other man.

A Close Call.

F. B. Collins, an attorney of Niles, Mich., who had been seriously ill, went into a trance Wednesday and his relatives supposing him dead, summoned an undertaker. When he placed the remains in a casket several hours later the undertaker discovered perceptible indications of returning life. Medical aid was summoned and the patient now bids fair to recover.

THE Kansas City Star says: "It is certain that if Henry Ward Beecher were alive he would admire Grover Cleveland as much as Mr. Cleveland admires Mr. Beecher."