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THE DISPENSARY SYSTEM.

The Outlook in a recent number says editorially: The official count in South Dakota shows that the constitutional amendment providing for a dispensary system was adopted by a majority of 1,613 votes. The total vote polled upon it was light; and it is possible that its opponents may yet prevent a trial of the new system by petitioning for a referendum vote upon any law passed to carry the amendment into effect.

The greatest gain it has made, however, is in South Carolina. As our readers will recall, the dispensary law first encountered violent resistance from the liquor dealers and their sympathizers in some of the cities; and when Governor Tillman put down the disorders and reaped the illicit traffic to a minimum unknown in any other state, a federal judge (Judge Simonton) restored the "blind tigers" by enjoining state officials from preventing the sale of liquor in "original packages" imported from other states.

The farmers, so far as they are represented by the agricultural press, are solid against imperialism. "There is not much of a field for American crops in the Philippines," says a journal devoted to grape culture in western New York.

The "Embalmed" Beef Scandal. A dealer in game, poultry and fancy meats on Barclay street, New York, is responsible for the "embalmed-beef" scandal. His name is Alexander B. Powell and he is the patentee of a secret process for preserving that form of food by fumigation which is supposed to cover the surface with a crust that will prevent the parts so protected from decay.

There is more catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly falling to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment.

Never remind people who have been married longer than six weeks that they married their ideals.

A LONELY ISLAND.

IT IS A BRITISH POSSESSION IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

Known as Rockall, and No Human Being Has Ever Landed Upon It—Probably the Cause of Many Disasters—Looks Like a Ship Under Full Sail.

Perhaps the loneliest island in the Atlantic Ocean is a British possession known on the map as Rockall. Where is it? Rockall is a lonely pyramidal rock, some 70 feet in height and 250 feet in circumference, rising sheer out of the wild Atlantic waves, about 184 miles west-half-south from St. Kilda, in the outer Hebrides, 290 miles from the nearest point of the Scottish mainland and 260 miles northwest from the nearest point on the Irish coast.

More exactly, its position—at least, as nearly as this has been ascertained—is latitude 57 deg. 30 min. north, longitude 12 deg. 42 min. west. There is neither soil upon it nor sandy beach round it, the depth of water close up to it being twenty or thirty fathoms.

A "rock," therefore it must be called rather than an island, or even an islet; and, of all the rocks and islands, great and small, surrounding our shores it is at once the most remote, the most desolate, the least known, and in many respects the most remarkable.

Close to the main rock, and with deep water between them, lies a dangerous reef, exposed at low tide known as Hazlewood Rock, while a mile and a half southeast lies another similar rock known as Helen's Reef, from a vessel of that name whose wreck upon it first made it known.

To the mariner Rockall presents itself as a serious danger. Neither the main rock nor the surrounding reef has even been either lighted, belled or buoyed. Yet, though not in the main line of cross-Atlantic traffic, there can be no doubt that they have frequently proved fatal to vessels. There are several actual records of wrecks upon them, the earliest being in 1686, and it is probable that they are partly accountable for some of the disappearances of well-found vessels which are reported annually from the Atlantic.

Mr. J. A. Harvie-Brown, an eminent Scottish naturalist; Mr. R. M. Barrington, a leading Irish naturalist, and two other gentlemen, undertook not long ago a scientific expedition to Rockall, under the auspices of the Royal Irish Academy. Twice was the rock approached, but on each occasion the swell around it rendered a landing impossible, and the expedition had at last to return, balked of its main object.

Ornithologists have long awaited with keenest interest information relating to the bird population of the rock, and have imagined it a possible breeding place of several interesting sea birds. But the recent expedition, during which no fewer than twenty species were observed round the rock, proved that in all probability no species breeds upon it except the common gull.

In many other ways the rock is of much scientific interest, and any yachtman or others who may hereafter be fortunate enough to effect a landing upon Rockall will certainly obtain results of much interest to naturalists.

Pop Corn in Milk.

A Northern business man living in the South has found an agreeable cure for insomnia. It answered perfectly in his case, and no longer needing it as medicine he continues it as food. It is a most agreeable dish of popcorn. The corn is popped in the usual wire basket, and while hot it is put in a hot bowl. Scalding milk is poured over it, and in two minutes it is soft and ready to be sprinkled with sugar, unless salt and pepper are preferred.

Siamese Debtors.

Debtors in Siam, when three months in arrears, can be seized by the creditors and compelled to work out their indebtedness. Should a debtor run away, his father, his wife, or his children may be held in slavery until the debt is canceled.

Gladstone's Funeral.

The public funeral of Mr. Gladstone was not extraordinarily expensive. Some of the newspapers gave the cost as \$35,000, but a competent authority states that the actual cost was about \$10,000.

The Gunner's Call. "I've just found out," said the Flag Lieutenant, "what that gunner's mate did before he enlisted."

QUAINT OLD SANTIAGO

The Venerable City On Which All Eyes Were So Long Fixed.

The bottling up of Cervera's fleet in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba is not the only claim to distinction possessed by that curious old city; for, as the inhabitants never fail to remind the traveller, it has long been a disputed fact whether Columbus landed first at San Salvador or Santiago de Cuba. However that may be, St. Jago, as the Spanish call it, is far older than any city in North America.

The peculiar narrow streets and the facades of the houses remind one of some of the old towns in Italy; but there the resemblance ceases, for the houses of Santiago are nearly all built around a court, or patio, as they are in most Spanish towns. With their high barred windows and glaring plastered walls, on the outside they look more like prisons than like the American idea of dwelling houses.

In Santiago as well as in other Cuban cities, the proprietors of most of the shops and warehouses live in the same building in which their business is conducted. The shops open about nine o'clock in the morning and remain open till about noon, when they close up, and everybody goes to the midday meal. After that everybody takes a nap in the heat of the day.

In the evening the people sit around and take life easy, and smoke, of course, for in Santiago everybody smokes, men, women and children. Even the waiters in the hotels and cafes pull out a cigarette and smoke between the courses. The porters and cabmen smoke at all times and seasons. The stevedores on the wharves smoke at their work, and even the clerks in the dry goods stores roll a cigarette and take a puff between two



QUAINT SANTIAGO.

customers. The senorita blows a cloud of smoke from under the lace of her fascinating, mysterious mantilla, white negroes walk along the streets puffing away at huge cigars. Children of eight and ten may often be seen with cigarettes in their mouths, and it is no uncommon sight to see men and women smoking in church.

The country houses around Santiago are infested with mice and lizards. The latter are very alert and active and quite unlike the sluggish lizards seen in northern climates. There is a curious kind of mouser whose presence is rather encouraged about Cuban country houses. These mousers are not cats, as one might suppose, but large black snakes. As they are quite harmless, nobody thinks of being afraid of them, and they come and go as they please, unmolested.

All the young bloods in Santiago wear white duck suits and straw hats, and they may be seen lounging around the city and the Club de San Carlos, looking cool and comfortable, and smoking, of course, for that goes without saying in Santiago. At the Club de San Carlos, which is the Union League of Santiago, the Spanish officers from Morro Castle and the gilded youths of the city make their idling headquarters. It is a pleasant place in which to loaf, drink cooling beverages, smoke and gossip. The club house is only one story high, like most of the buildings in the city, and in front is a little garden with a fountain and flowers.

Opposite the Club de San Carlos is the Cafe Venus, where, an enthusiastic traveller declares, as good a meal can be had as at Delmonico's. There is less wine drunk in Cuba than in most Latin countries; but there is a native rum, called bacardi, which is made from molasses, and which, well mixed with water and cooled with ice, makes a very smooth sort of beverage and a somewhat insidious one. A quart bottle of this rum costs only fifty cents, and as a good deal of it is usually drunk at the midday meal it is not to be wondered at that a nap immediately follows it.

Why Sigbee Turned Scuttler.

On another occasion Captain Sigbee deliberately sank his ship to save her from a still worse fate. He was in command of the coast survey steamer Blake, and was anchored in a West Indian port, when a hurricane came up, and in the heavy sea the ship's anchors began to drag. She was drifting so utter and inevitable destruction on a reef. Where she lay there was a soft, sandy bottom. The Captain ordered her scuttled, and down she went. Later she was pumped out and raised—an expensive operation, but far less costly than building a new ship.

The Gunner's Call.

"I've just found out," said the Flag Lieutenant, "what that gunner's mate did before he enlisted." "What?" asked the Quartermaster. "I happened to be standing near him when he pulled the lanyard during the bombardment this morning, and every time he did it he yelled 'C-a-a-a-h! change in a minute!'"

OBITUARY.

ELVA FLETCHER MERRILL.

Elva Fletcher Merrill, wife of Albert Merrill, died at her home south of this village on the 16th inst., of consumption. Last spring this disease first showed its fatal symptoms, and as time advanced, notwithstanding the careful attentions of her devoted husband and mother, and to those who were hoping against hope, it became apparent that the frail thread that held her to life would soon be broken. She was in youth's bloom of twenty-five years, a young woman of more than usual brilliancy of mind and strength of character. The declining part of her life was a poem of patience and consideration for those about her, and at last when the Angel of Death, whom she realized had been hovering over her so long, came with the "awful summons," welcome overtook her face as for an old friend, who had come to relieve her of her sufferings. Before the funeral, which took place at St. Stephen's church, her infant daughter, Madeline, was baptized. The body was taken for burial to Evergreen cemetery, New Haven. The heart broken friends have the sympathy of the entire community.

MISS TRYPHOSA DUNNING.

Died in Weybridge, Jan. 23, 1899, Miss Tryphosa Dunning, in the 90th year of her age. This removes the oldest inhabitant in the town. She was born Sept. 2, 1809, in Weybridge, and has always made her home there, living 37 years in one place. Her life has been quiet, but useful, ever ready to lend a helping hand in trouble and especially in sickness. She was a person of very exact and methodical habits, having kept a diary for the last 28 years, which is a marvel of fine writing and is in a good state of preservation. She seldom missed a day of writing some account of the day's work, until the three weeks previous to her death. She had remarkably good health, and often walked to the near neighbors. The last illness was like the burning out of a candle, with little actual suffering, and her mind remaining perfectly clear until the very last. The funeral was attended by her old neighbors and friends and the relatives at the home of Geo. H. Wright, where she had lived the last four years. The pastor of the church of which she had been a member, for many years gave a short, but very acceptable line of thought. The singing was good and thanks are given to all who so kindly aided in any way.

A CLEVER TRICK.

It certainly looks like it, but there is really no trick about it. Anybody can try it who has Lame Back and Weak Kidneys, Malaria or nervous troubles. We mean he can cure himself right away by taking Electric Bitters. This medicine tones up the whole system, acts as a stimulant to Liver and Kidneys, is a blood purifier and nerve tonic. It cures Constipation, Headache, Fainting Spells, Sleeplessness and Melancholy. It is purely vegetable, a mild laxative, and restores the system to its natural vigor. Try Electric Bitters and be convinced that they are a miracle worker. Every bottle guaranteed. Only 50c a bottle at Sheldon's Drug Store.

In Spain many army officers have declared in favor of Don Carlos, and it seems certain that the army will go over to him in a body should he go to Spain.

A CHILD ENJOYS

The pleasant flavor, gentle action, and soothing effect of Syrup of Fig, when in need of a laxative, and if the father or mother be costive or bilious, the most gratifying results follow its use; so that it is the best family remedy known, and every family should have a bottle. Manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co.

In an old safe in the Havana post office two packages containing 19,000 pesetas were found addressed to the captain of the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XIII.

BUCKLEN'S ARNICA SALVE.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by W. H. Sheldon.

Gen. Whittier, who returned recently from Manila, says the trouble in the Philippines is much exaggerated and easy of settlement.

When doctors fail try Burdock Blood Bitters. Cures dyspepsia, constipation; invigorates the whole system.

It is reported from Berlin that Prince Herbert Bismarck is about to re-enter public service, probably in a diplomatic capacity.

Paul Perry, of Columbus, Ga., suffered agony for thirty years, and then cured his Piles using DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. It heals injuries and skin diseases like magic. Isaac Sterns, Middlebury; B. G. Peck or Day Bros., East Middlebury; C. W. Sowle, West Cornwall; D. H. Bennett, Bridport; C. B. Kendall, Shoreham; F. C. Dyer, West Salisbury; W. B. French, Orwell.

The capitol at Hartford, Conn., is to be closed at night hereafter, to prevent the clerks from using the offices as bed chambers.

To insure a happy new year, keep the liver clear and the body vigorous by using DeWitt's Little Early Risers, the famous little pills for constipation and liver troubles. Isaac Sterns, Middlebury; B. G. Peck or Day Bros., East Middlebury; C. W. Sowle, West Cornwall; D. H. Bennett, Bridport; C. B. Kendall, Shoreham; F. C. Dyer, West Salisbury; W. B. French, Orwell.

NOTICE.

The Annual Meeting of the Vermont Merino Sheep Shearing Association will be held at the Addison House in Middlebury, Feb. 8, 1899, at 11 o'clock a. m., for the election of officers and to see whether a showing shall be held and the association continued or not. Those interested should attend.

E. N. BISSELL, President. I. L. HAMBLEN, Secretary.

SOME TRADE SECRETS

When you go or send to Burlington or Rutland for your engraved Wedding Stationery or Visiting Cards, the work will be done—not in Burlington or Rutland, but just where we would get it done. Burlington printers and stationers pay for the work, but we have to pay (if it's first class work, like ours), and they cannot, therefore, charge you less than we. Our work is done by the acknowledged finest engraving house in the metropolis, and in every package is contained an elegant white-enameled wooden box.

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- 25 Styles of Chiffoniers in Oak, Cherry, Mahogany and White Enamel, \$5.00 to \$35.00
298 Styles of Chairs and Rockers, 30c. to \$48.00
26 Styles of Ladies Desks, \$3.50 to \$26.50
23 Styles of Book Cases, \$3.50 to \$24.00
17 Styles of Combination Book Cases and Desks, \$10.00 to \$45.00
16 Styles of Library Tables, \$3.00 to \$32.00
73 Styles of Parlor Tables, \$4c. to \$16.50
12 Styles of Tabourettes, \$4c. to \$4.50
40 Styles of Couches and Lounges.

A fine line of Rattan Chairs and Rockers, Brass Beds, White Iron Beds, Fine Dressing Tables, Onyx Tables, Medicine Cabinets, Costumers, Covered Box Seats, Roll Top Desks, Office Chairs and Parlor Furniture in great variety.

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THEY GO ON SIGHT.

One of the rare devices that command themselves, that "go" on sight, is the Neverslip Horseshoe and Calk. The idea and way of accomplishing it are plain as a pipestem. For example, what ails the old-fashioned horse shoe—what are the objections to it? Why obviously these: When the calks wear down the shoe can't be sharpened unless it is taken off. On account of the trouble and expense of this the owner often lets his horse go smooth-shod until he meets with a slipping accident, or leaves his horse in the stable for fear of it. After a sudden freeze-up in winter the blacksmith shop is crowded and surrounded by horses waiting to be shod or sharpened. So use in more than hinting to a horseman what this means. Delay, vexation, loss of time of horses and men, imperfect jobs by the hurried blacksmith and general misery and discomfort. Other objections to the frequent removal and re-setting of shoes as well as to the neglect of removing and re-setting them will occur to all horse owners. All this is avoided by the NEVERSLIP HORSESHOE AND CALK. These calks can be inserted, removed immediately by the wrench; they are strong and durable; they prevent slipping; they save the shoe; they save money and time; you can do the work yourself. The Neverslip shoe is as good a shoe as can be and the calks are adapted to horses of different weight and work.

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