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Never was the spirit of improvement in Graham county so marked to-day

GREAT minds must be ready not only to take opportunities, but to make them.—Colton.

EVERY man's motto should be to advance and to assist his fellow-man to advance.

ABOUT the only one who can be even partially excused for breaking his word is the man who stutters.

THERE are only 950 Chinamen in the whole of New Mexico, according to the registry certificates issued under the new law.

AN oil-burning locomotive is running in regular service between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, Cal., and works perfectly and economically.

IT by no means implies that the President missed his aim, when, seeming to be shooting ducks he sent a disagreeable charge home to the English lion.

ONE principal reason why men are so often useless, is that they divide and shift their attention among a multiplicity of objects and pursuits.—Emmons.

WHEN you find a man whose only friend is himself, and who thinks his right to exist is the only one that should be recognized, beware of him.

WHEN the Improvement and Social Club commences its meetings again every effort should be made to make it more successful than before.

APPARENTLY the Morenci burglars intended to have a merry Christmas but we imagine that things were made hotter for them on that day than they had prepared for.

OUR advice to Supt. Cluff is, to resign his office in favor of the gentleman who has been employed to teach the Lone Star district school, and who says he understands the English language.

ABOUT the latest oddity in prize contests, or circulation boomers, is the offer of a San Francisco newspaper to give a silver cup to every baby born on Christmas day in the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, and the Territory of Arizona. No conditions of contest are made.

MOVIE night Editor Hughes of the Albuquerque Citizen completed his sixty days in jail for contempt of court and was released. He was given a big reception that night at which resolutions not complimentary to the supreme court were passed and many speeches made regarding the freedom of the press.—Western Liberal.

THE Hon. William Preston Harrison of Chicago, who lately arrived in San Francisco from the South seas, is reported to report that during his visit to the Samoan Islands twenty-five persons were butchered to make a cannibal holiday and that he narrowly escaped furnishing a refection to the anthropophagi himself. In this latter piece of information he is unaccountably mistaken. It is matter of strict law as well of tradition with the cannibals never to eat a Chicago man. They draw the line there.—N. Y. Sun.

SECOND CLASS MATTER.

The report of the Postmaster General calls attention to a fact that will surprise most readers, that two-thirds of all the weight of matter carried in the mails consists not of letters, but of "second class matter" books, magazines and newspapers—and that transportation of this second class matter costs about \$18,500,000 more than the government gets for it. As the annual deficit in the entire service is about \$10,000,000, it is clear that the government is spending a good deal of money for the diffusion literature.

A part of this second-class matter, of course, includes government publications. The Postmaster General says that the free business in all classes done for other departments, if paid for at regular rates would more than wipe out the deficit. But this would be only another way for making an appropriation. The low rates on second class matter were made to facilitate the circulation of newspapers. These are commonly carried in bulk, upon main lines, at a comparatively light expense, and their distribution over branch lines does not add materially to the expense of the mail service necessarily maintained there. While the assertion cannot be made without the detailed figures, it is likely that the circulation of daily and weekly newspapers by mails, under existing regulations, about pays for itself.

The great deficiency that has grown up in this branch of the service in recent years counterbalancing the grains made in other branches, is due in part to the largely increased circulation of monthly magazines and still more to the circulation of books issued at intervals and "registered as second class matter" under the head of periodicals. A single book pays one cent for four ounces; as a periodical it goes at one cent a pound. If the cost of carriage averages eight cents a pound, it is clear that the increase of this business causes an increasing deficit. The newspaper mail is evenly distributed, being about the same from day to day, and but few newspapers are carried great distances. The other kinds of second-class matter dumped upon the mails at long intervals to be carried over long routes, thus involving not only great expense but great derangement of the daily business of the post office. This is why the present Postmaster General, like his predecessors wants a better definition of second class matter.

VENEZUELA.

Great Britain is the aggressor all over the world in the occupation of territory and her greed for land seems to increase in proportion as she extends her possessions. Within a few years she has taken to herself thirty islands in the Pacific ocean, and she has acquired enormous tracts in Asia and Africa; and we encounter her pretensions with respect to the Behring sea, while she asserts a claim to a part of Alaska and appears and exacts tribute in Nicaragua and demands a rectification of boundary with Venezuela by which she would gain a province nearly as large as the five smaller New England states. It is high time Great Britain should hear from us, not in kind, but in a way that admits of no uncertainty, and her government must understand that we are full grown and know our rights and duties and potentialities, and that we have interests that warrant the exercise of a protectorate in the occupancy of the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean sea, maintaining our right of way between the two oceans that bound the republic east and west as firmly as England holds the road to India.—Brooklyn Standard Union.

CONDEMN no man for not thinking as you think. Let every one enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for himself. Let every man use his own judgment, since every man must give an account of himself to God. If you can not persuade a man into the truth, never attempt to force a man into it. If love will not compel him to come, leave him to God, the judge of all.—John Wesley.

FOSTER the beautiful, and every hour thou callest new flowers to birth.—Schiller. There are some people who give with the air of refusal.—Queen Christina.

A BEAR'S NOSE.

One Point of the Animal That Is Very Sensitive.

A sportsman's life was once saved by his knowledge of one of the physical peculiarities of the bear. Gen. Hamilton, who tells the story in his "Sport in Southern India," was out on a bear-shooting expedition with a brother officer. The beaters drove the bear from his hiding place, and a shot from the officer threw him on the ground; but he got up with a grunt and made off.

As the bear passed an open bit of ground Gen. Hamilton again fired, but missed, and the beast turned upon him. When he was within a few yards the general gave him the other barrel. As this did not stop him Hamilton started to run, but tripped over a rock and fell flat on his face.

The bear was upon him instantly, and his shoulder, snoring over his shoulder, snoring into the bear's mouth as the brute made a grab at him. The animal caught him by the thigh and pinned him. Knowing that a bear's nose is very sensitive, Hamilton hit him several hard blows on the nose. The bear, unable to endure the pain, let go, and, before he could get hold again, Hamilton was up the hill.

His companion ran up and killed the bear by a ball through his heart. But the bear's claws had laid open Hamilton's thigh to the bone, and he was in bed for a month.

A CORNER FOR WOMEN.

THE British matron is nettled by Daudet's caustic observations on her lack of physical charms and of her taste in dress. She says in reply that the French novelist saw very little of England.

JIM FISK was worth about two million dollars when he was killed by Ed. Stokes. To-day Fisk's widow is living in a humble frame house in the tenement district of Boston on an income of fifty dollars a month.

REFUS WATERHOUSE, a wealthy manufacturer of men's furnishing goods in New York, recently deceased, has left a legacy of two hundred thousand dollars to found a consumption ward in St. Luke's hospital, to be named in honor of his deceased wife.

MRS. CLEVELAND's great fondness for flowers is well known, and she has an especial fancy for great flowering plants, but is enthusiastic over all flowers, from the most modest wild flower to the conservatory-bred rose and orchid.

LONG as she has resided in England, the princess of Wales has never mastered the English accent. "Chanel," for instance, she pronounces "shannel," and there are many other little difficulties of speech which betray that she is a foreigner born and bred.

MRS. IDA BUXTON COLE, prominent among suffrage speakers, says: "We read in the Bible that after the Israelites were all worn out with wrangling and dissensions God gave them a woman—Deborah—to judge them; she ruled over them for forty years, and we read that 'then they had a rest.'"

An appeal has been issued to the women of the south for funds with which to build a monument to the mother of Gen. Robert E. Lee. An association formed for the purpose has the matter in charge. It is proposed to erect the monument in the churchyard of Christ church, Alexandria, Va.

A SMATTERING OF SCIENCE.

DR. BLISS, the agent of the Palestine exploration fund, has discovered a ruined town east of the Dead sea.

DR. LESLIE PHILLIPS, a scientist, warns women against wearing their hair short. He says men become bald because they cut their hair.

By the discovery of helium on our globe only two permanent lines are left in the chromosphere spectrum of the sun which do not correspond to lines obtained in terrestrial spectra.

EXPERIMENTS to find whether argon can be obtained from vegetable or animal tissue have resulted negatively, the quantity of the new gas obtained in this way not being appreciable.

IT is believed that the elephant, the rhinoceros, the bear, the hyena, and other wild animals, were at one time common in England. The bones of these animals have been found in Kent's cavern, about a mile from Torquay.

ACCORDING to Prof. Barnard, there is no ground for the supposition that the rings of Saturn are closing in upon the planet, as his observations show that no changes have taken place since the first systematic measures were made.

ABOUT WOMEN.

MISS MARY ROSE SARTONIS, daughter of Mrs. Nellie Grant-Sartonis, is suffering from an accident, the result of an experience on a bicycle.

REV. ANNA SHAW was asked to name one of the big trees in the Yosemite valley, and she chose one of a group of three particularly fine ones and named it Susan B. Anthony.

MISS MARIA M. LOVE, of the Buffalo W. C. T. U., told the local conference of charities and corrections recently that if girls would learn to cook, sew and keep house tidily there would be less drinking by men.

MISS POWDERLY, the American secretary to Lady Henry Somerset, is a New England woman with a college education. She is a linguist, musician, stenographer and typewriter, besides being a very beautiful penman.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

A MAN in Unionville, Mo., claims that salt-peter is an infallible cure for snake bite, and cites personal experience in support of his claim.

IT is said the wound made by the tooth of the cobra species of serpent is a mere puncture and causes little swelling. Death ensues from paralysis of the nerve centers.

M. LABORDE, a distinguished French savant, contributes to La Revue Scientifique a paper calculated to prove that human kind is reverting to ancestral forms; that is, becoming monkeys again.

PROF. BURTON, of Hanover, says that the bright yellow line in the spectrum of gas from cleveite is double. This destroys its identity with the helium line unless that can also be shown to be double.

AN eccentric German is touring through California barefooted. He claims that he has not worn shoes in ten years.

A YOUNG woman of Gorin, Mo., who is only twenty years old, is eight feet two inches tall and weighs 350 pounds. The Salina (Kan.) girl who telegraphed invitations to her wedding knows what to do with a bird in the hand when she gets him.

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