

The United States army is to be supplied with smokeless powder. Many of the soldier boys have already had experience with it in warm parlor engagements.

It is safe to say that the oriental jewelry counter in the California Midway will not be extensively patronized by the same persons who invested that way in Chicago.

The English parliament complains of being overworked. If the English parliament should work days and sleep nights, like the rest of the world, it would not get so tired. The English parliament is the only body of men that works nights, unless so compelled by the necessity of the case.

The charge against the Boston psychological institute of stealing a corpse will not find many believers. If the institute had an opportunity to steal a real, genuine ghost it might yield to temptation. It is not partial to soulless bodies; but it would doubtless pay well for a disembodied soul.

The criminal idiosyncrasy of parents who lock helpless children into the house while they go visiting is one of the things that the law seems powerless to reach. If the children were always burned alive, instead of occasionally escaping as they now do, the practice might eventually become unpopular.

The Metropolitan traction company of New York offers \$50,000 to any one who will invent a new motive power for street cars. Emerson advised people, a long time ago, to hitch their wagons to a star. Perhaps this motive power would work as well on a street car as on a wagon. The \$50,000 check can now be forwarded at once.

Being arrested for having caused the death of a child a Brooklyn man put forth the defense that he was a physician. This plea was not accepted, the fact developing that the claim set up was false. However, the episode would seem to indicate that the privilege of the healer to become killer is too generally recognized for public safety.

One of those coincidences that are as mysterious as they are interesting occurred in connection with the death of John Nolan, an officer of the superior court of New York. Last Saturday he "took a notion" to make his will, and, as he was in excellent health, was chaffed by friends whom he asked to witness it. It was signed and sealed that afternoon and the next day he died of heart disease.

A PLEASING little vice-versa anecdote emerges from the classic shades of Phillips academy at Exeter, N. H. The principal wouldn't let the students go to a burlesque performance and thereupon they plastered his room among others full of the pleasing posters wherewith the attractions of the show were set forth. If Mohammed wouldn't go to the mountain, why, they just fetched the mountain to him.

JOHN JEWELL Flint of Sacramento, Cal., who shot a girl in the back because she had properly estimated him, and refused him her hand, has been allowed to plead guilty to murder in the second degree. It would be interesting to know what is considered first-degree murder up that way. Young Mr. Flint is to be felicitated. If hanged he would be unable to kill any more girls, but in prison he may live in hopes.

It is said that the great 5000-gallon gun will carry a shot sixteen miles. The best English steel rifles carry thirteen miles, and we have several 12-inch terrors in the United States that will carry ten miles. And yet it is a fact that several valuable lives have been lost within the past two months because the best guns used at life-saving stations are not able to carry a life-line more than 600 or 700 yards. Perhaps if as much attention were paid to perfecting life-saving mortars and guns as to perfecting death-dealing ones, the world's civilization would not suffer.

PETER NEARY, of Newark, N. J., had a billy goat and a ten-dollar greenback. Billy and the bill had a meeting, and, following the fashion of the period, effected a consolidation; that is to say, the goat chewed and swallowed the banknote. This arrangement was made without Mr. Neary's consent, and he moved instantly for a dissolution of partnership by killing the goat and recovering the fragments of the bill. These were sent to the treasury, and it seems that there was enough left to identify the note, and so a few days ago Mr. Neary received a brand new \$10 note in return, and is only out to the extent of a goat.

ANOTHER man with a broken neck is living in Providence, R. I. Many accidents, like many diseases, which were once considered fatal, are now known to be not necessarily so. Many cases of men with broken backs and broken necks living are now on record.

Tests of modern rifles are being made by using human corpses for targets. This sounds brutal, but it really is less brutal than making the tests on bodies that are not corpses in the beginning.

THE BURGLAR AT WORK

HOW HE COAXES OPEN THE MODERN BANK SAFE.

Sometimes the Modern Burglar is a Scientist Whose Cleverness is Quite Superior to Every Kind of Protection—Nitro-Glycerine.

The square door is generally held in position when closed by eight round bolts of one and a half inches in diameter. These are shot from behind the door across the joint to the rear of the jamb of the door, and the strength of the door-jamb to resist being torn out is the maximum strength of the safe to resist the quiet but forcible eloquence of the burglarious visitor. The second, or round, class of doors are built of plates similar to those of the safe, and generally have a coarse thread cut on their periphery, the door being screwed into the safe. The square doors are generally more open to persuasion than the other kind.

In opening a modern bank safe the burglar putties up the entire joint or crack except for about an inch at top and bottom, says the Boston Herald. A wall of putty is then formed about the top crack, where it is uncovered, and two and a half or three ounces of nitro-glycerine poured into it. If the safe is not protected by felt or rubber, it will require but three or four minutes for the glycerine to distribute itself over the entire joint of the door and grip out at the lower crack. An ordinary detonating cap, such as is used in exploding dynamite, is inserted in the upper well and the fuse lit. When the explosion occurs the door comes off. When the operation takes place in the vault there is rarely any noise more than fifty feet away.

The burglar does not carry nitro-glycerine with him. He goes to a hardware store and buys a few pounds of dynamite, which he breaks up in a convenient vessel, as a wash-basin, covers with alcohol, and allows it to stand until the glycerine has all combined with it. The alcohol and glycerine are then poured off, and an equal amount of water is added; the water and the alcohol combine, and the nitro-glycerine sinks to the bottom, where it is ready for use.

A bank in a Western state had its safe located within ten feet of the street window, thus making it visible to everyone who passed. In front of the safe at night burned an arc light, while the safe door was arranged so that its opening would ring a bell in the cashier's sleeping apartments by means of an electric connection. After banking hours the burglar called on the occupants, representing himself as an inspector of the electric light company, thus gaining access to the top of the building, where he short-circuited the electric wires and thus prevented the ringing of the cashier's bell.

That night after the street cars stopped running, the burglar cut the trolley wire at two points about six hundred feet apart. Taking one end of the piece between two buildings and placing it in a cistern, the other end was connected to the electric wire, thus making a "ground" and putting out the arc lights in the bank. The safe was then opened in less than twenty minutes with nitro-glycerine and several thousand dollars taken.

The chrome steel, of which the safe and vaults of banks are now largely built, is easily drilled by first heating the steel. A basket of wire netting is made to cover a space of about six or eight inches square, and this is wired to the side of the safe or door. It is filled with charcoal, which is ignited and a fierce heat generated by a pair of bellows. In four or five minutes the basket is removed and the heated spot allowed to cool. It may then be drilled or cut like ordinary boiler iron. Once a hole sufficiently large to admit a man's arm was cut through a chrome-steel bank safe four inches thick in four hours, so that a man's arm was passed through and the locking bolts disconnected with a wrench. In a little less than two hours a smaller hole was cut through the back of the safe into the money vault and its contents taken out through the hole.

The large vault door behind which the safe is placed is rarely blown with glycerine. It is generally opened by drilling a two or three-inch hole between the handle and the combination lock. This cuts off the locking bolt, and the door opens when the handle is turned. Safes with round doors which are screwed in are often opened experimentally by building a well of putty at the upper part of the joint and exploding about a teaspoonful of glycerine on the outside, the result being to cut out the top of the outer plate of metal.

A large well, embracing the cupped portion, is then made, and two ounces of glycerine placed therein, which feeds around the threads in about ten minutes, tearing the door and part of the frame out when exploded. One round door is mentioned, which was found to be so tight in the threads that glycerine would not flow. This was opened by first cupping out the inside plate, as just explained, and pouring half a teaspoonful of glycerine into the opening. This soon passed down the joint between the plates, and when exploded brought off the outside plate and some of the screws holding it in place.

Glycerine being introduced into these holes and exploded brought off the second plate, and this process was continued until in twenty minutes the entire door was lying on the floor in pieces. The most expeditious mode of taking out round

doors is said to be to drill an inch-hole all but through the edge of the door and safe, and to explode glycerine in this hole. In this way the joints between the plates of the safe and door are opened out so that the explosion of a few ounces of glycerine in the crevices will bring out the whole door at once.

HUNT OF THE OFFICE-SEEKER.

Renewed Day by Day Until Hope Defers—Maketh the Heart Sick.

Not all the people who haunt the capitol are office-seekers, but a goodly proportion of them are, says the Washington Star. They come from all sections of the country and represent all classes of society. Of all the great concourse that streams through the corridors of the vast building day after day the office-seekers are the most forlorn looking. They impudently thrust their cards and representations over and again, and refuse to be turned from the phantom they are pursuing. Before congress meets every day the general reception room to the south of the senate chamber is full to crowding with those waiting to send in their cards to senators. A majority of these are after office, either for themselves or for relatives or friends. By the time the invocation of the chaplain is finished the bits of cardboard begin to fall in showers upon the desks of the statesmen. These gentlemen do not have time to go through their mail before they are interrupted by callers. The visitors hand their cards to one or the other of the numerous door-keepers and assistants and retire to the great leather covered chairs and sofas scattered around the reception room to await the result. It is a noticeable fact that women largely predominate in these waiting and anxious throngs about the senate entrances. Perhaps it is thought that their earnest solicitude will more favorably and deeply impress the men who are supposed to control the dispensation of official favors. They are of all ages, appearances and conditions. The fashionable society woman elbows her more humble sister of the work-a-day world, and blushing, diffident young girls sit and wait by the side of aged, infirm women in the seat and yellow leaf. Silk rustles against the simple garb of the humble poor, and beauty smiles into the face of decrepit age. Many of them wait long and patiently without reward. Their senator is "not in," or he is "engaged," or he sends word, "please call again." And the recipient of the message goes away with a heavy heart and troubled countenance, to come again in a few days and try it all over.

NOTES AND NOTIONS.

One pound of cork is amply sufficient to support a man of ordinary size in the water.

Kane, the Arctic traveler, was carried 700 miles by dogs at the speed of seven miles an hour.

There are forty-eight distinct diseases of the eye. No other organ of the human body has so many.

A new steel of extraordinary qualities is reported to be discovered by a Japanese named Yamana Hanhojyo.

The agricultural capital of Europe has doubled since 1849; that of the United States has increased over sixfold.

Four tramps took possession of a Santa Fe dining car at Riverside, Cal., the other day and helped themselves to provisions.

Amber, often classed among gems, is a fossil product. Most of the specimens inclosing insects are manufactured from gum copal.

The law which makes capital punishment in New York death by electricity went into effect in 1899. Since it has become operative eighteen murderers have been electrocuted.

ALLEGED WITTICISMS.

"Waiter, it is almost half an hour since I ordered that turtle soup!" Waiter—Sorry, sir, but you know how slow turtles are.

"Do you think, Schmidt, that your affection for fraulein is reciprocated?" "I really can't say. I am loving her at present on credit."

"Why don't you strike the man across the street for a quarter?" Raggs—I've been waitin' for two hours to see if he won't come over this way.

"Tommy," said Mr. Waters, "isn't that a pretty big buckwheat cake for a boy of your size?" "It looks big," said Tommy, "but really it isn't. It's got lots of porousses in it."

Girl at the Central—Just wait a second; somebody's telephoning for an ambulance. Man at the Telephone—What for? Girl at Central—Man run over by another ambulance.

Princeling, opening the shooting match—Donnewetter, I have gone too far to the left? Gamekeeper—Oh, not at all, your highness—the target is fixed too much to the right.

A—I can not understand why you shed tears at the theater last night. It was one of the most wretched performances I ever saw. B—Yes, but I was fool enough to pay for my ticket.

He—Janette, I'm afraid you are a vain little wife. You gaze into your mirror so much. She—You oughtn't to blame me for that. I haven't your advantage. He—What's that? She—You can see my face without looking into a mirror.

"I am not expecting any package," said the lady of the house. "This is the number," persisted the driver of the delivery wagon, looking at his book again. "Name's Higgins, ain't it?" "Yes," "No. 3747?" "That's our number." "Then it's for you." "I think not. It must be a case of mistaken identity." "No mum. It's a case of beer."

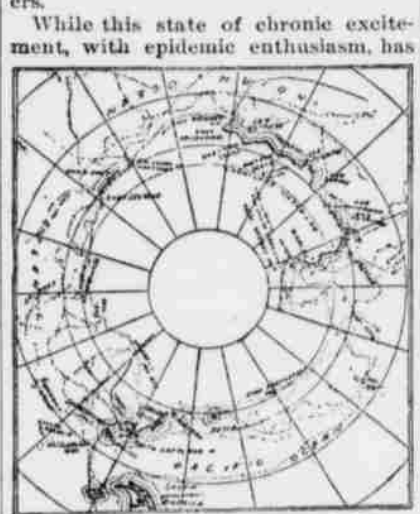
TO THE SOUTH POLE

THE COOK EXPEDITION TO START IN SEPTEMBER.

The Commander Tells What He Expects to Develop in the Vast Ice Continents of the Antarctic Regions—Interesting Discoveries Expected.

THE NORTH POLE and the regions surrounding it have long and often been brought before the notice of the public. While the geographical pole has not been reached, many of the scientific questions involved in these frozen northern regions are now known. The north polar regions have been visited so often by navigators, adventurers, and recently by scientific explorers, that the geography of their surroundings is fairly well charted, and I feel confident that ere the lapse of five years the north pole will be reached, and a fair idea of the topography of its immediate surroundings will be at the command of geographers.

While this state of chronic excitement, with epidemic enthusiasm, has been constantly directed northward, the south polar regions have been neglected, and very little is known of the Antarctic zone.



MAP OF THE ANTARCTIC REGION. [Showing routes of previous explorers.]

It seems natural that this should be the case when we consider the respective relative positions of the two points with regard to the more densely inhabited portions of the earth. The one is situated almost in the center of the land hemisphere; the other occupies a corresponding position in the water hemisphere, surrounded by a waste of wild seas, and lying thousands of miles away from any inhabited land.

So utterly isolated is the south pole and the regions surrounding it, so lonely and cold is it in its solitude, that one would hardly feel astonished if it had failed to attract the curiosity of mankind.

It was to satisfy curiosity that the first expedition to the south frigid zone was undertaken. Old geographers entertained the quaint idea that in the southern seas great continents existed, as a necessary condition of terrestrial construction, in order to counterbalance those in the north, and maintain the earth in stable equilibrium. From time to time search for these imaginary lands was made.

Previous to the beginning of this century many attempts had been made to enter the ice barrier and discover the continent supposed to exist, but their only success had been the discovery of a few barren islands. As a result of this the old geographers were disgusted that nature should have neglected to construct an Antarctic continent, and scratched from off their maps the great mainland of the southern seas, which had figured so long on their charts.

Early in this century a few important discoveries were made, and about 1835 the American and several European governments began to take an interest in these regions. As a result of this international interest, which was perhaps international pride, intermingled with curiosity, the United States government elaborately fitted out an expedition under the command of Lieutenant Wilkes, and the French an expedition under the command of Admiral Dumont d'Urville. Shortly after these had been fitted out the English fitted out an expedition on a grand scale under Captain James Ross.

The meager results of these expeditions and the intensely bitter contro-



EDWIN BOOTH.

versy which they excited, I presume, are familiar to all.

An expedition to the South Pole regions is an enterprise far more difficult of conception in all its bearings than the one to the opposite hemisphere, a climate perhaps vastly more severe, a navigation infinitely more intricate and dangerous in character, and so far removed from any base of operations, with no known harbor for the security of the ships as winter quarters.

The right or Greenland whale is rapidly becoming extinct. Whale oil has become less desirable since the introduction of other oils to take its place, and whaling, in general, has become very unprofitable within recent years. This has thrown several excellent vessels, built for Arctic service, on the market, where they can be bought at low figures.

I propose to buy one of these steam whaling vessels of about 300 tons, and refit her for Antarctic service. She must be provisioned for three years.

While two strongly built steamers of this kind would be perhaps most desirable, their use would so increase the expense as to render the enterprise almost impracticable. I think that one vessel can be so equipped as to render retreat safe and certain if the vessel is lost.

On the decks of the steamer we shall carry two lifeboats. One of these shall be large enough to cross the rough waters between the South Shetland islands and South America. The other, a smaller one, will be built for ice navigation.

Since the seasons are reversed in the southern hemisphere, the months for exploration will be December, January, February and March. Therefore, the expedition should leave New York about Sept. 1, next.

The course will be New York to the Falkland islands, there replenish our coal and provision supply. From the Falkland islands we shall steam directly for Terra Louis Philippe. On one of the islands off this coast we shall deposit one of our lifeboats, with provisions enough to reach the Falkland islands from here.

From Terra Louis Philippe our course will depend much upon the movements of those vast packs of ice drifting around the polar area at the mercy of the prevailing winds and currents, leaving temporary openings in the direction of the continent or the Pole. We shall here take advantage of the first opportunity to enter the ice barrier and proceed in a southerly direction to the most southern point at which we will be able to reach land. There search for some nook or harbor for our vessel, establish our headquarters, beginning systematic observations at once.

What remains in store for us to face on this frozen continent during the long, gloomy Antarctic night, one can do little more than conjecture. We shall be so fortified against the elements that if the storms are worse and the temperature lower than in the northern regions it would not materially affect our existence. We shall be thoroughly prepared to meet the worst.

The immediate surroundings will first receive a detailed geological and topographical survey. Meteorological observations, which will begin on our arrival, will be continued right along unremittingly for one year.

A party will be kept constantly in the field in search of animal and vegetable life in the sea and on land. This



DR. P. A. COOK.

party shall also search diligently for fossils remains of earlier life.

The inland ice, if it exists, will be examined with a view to utilizing it as a highway for more southern explorations. If we find it practicable for this purpose we shall establish an advance station.

From this advance station of provisions we will begin operations the following spring, when the sun returns, for an extended southern sledge journey across the continent.

As the sun disappears explorations in the field must cease and a systematic routine of mental and physical exercise begin. The length of this Antarctic night will, of course, depend upon the latitude that we will be able to reach. After my experience in the Arctic regions this phenomenon presents no terror to me. I feel confident that if a proper system of exercise be enforced, and by the aid of modern foods, we need not fear the curse of earlier explorers—scurvy.

As soon as the sun returns our actions in the field will again begin. The inland party for more southern explorations will then start on their journey across the inland ice. The scientific observations will be continued along the coast and as much of the coast explored on sledges and in boats as the time before our retreat will permit.

After the return of the inland party, which will be about March 1, we will at once begin our retreat. We shall use every endeavor to protect our vessel from ice pressure and try to keep her from being jammed or detained in the ice packs. If we should be so unfortunate as to lose our vessel, our retreat is so planned that by the use of a combination of small boats which can be drawn over ice, and sledges, we will be able to reach our life-boat on an island off Louis Philippe Land, and in this cross over to the Falkland islands. After we have crossed the Antarctic Circle, if the time and weather conditions will permit, we shall endeavor to study the mainland and islands in the region of Terra Louis Philippe. Leaving here we shall probably reach the Falkland islands about May 1; from there, after stopping at one or two South American ports, we shall steam direct for New York.

EDWIN BOOTH.

The Killing of President Lincoln and Its Effect Upon the Actor's Life.

For the next year I saw him constantly, either in Philadelphia or in New York, where he was then playing at the Winter Garden, writes William Bispham in the Century, in those marvelous revivals of Shakespeare's plays which made his fame as a stage manager only second to his fame as an actor. Then came the horror of the event of Good Friday night of 1865, and Edwin Booth was stricken to the ground. Nothing but the love that was poured out for him by his friends saved him from madness. For days his sanity hung in the balance, and we all were fearful for the result, but nature and friendship gained the victory, and though his very soul was torn with anguish, his clear, strong brain reasserted itself and he was himself again. For nearly a year he withdrew from the stage, and it was only when the call of the public for his return became too strong to longer be withstood that he consented to play again. During the time that he was in retirement it was my great privilege to pass nearly every evening with him. I had come to New York to live in the spring of 1865, and being alone here could follow my own inclinations in being with him as much as he desired. We used to sit in his library on the first floor of the house he occupied in Nineteenth street, east of Broadway, and his mother, his sister Rosalie, and his little daughter Edwina were with him. Often we would talk so late that when we were ready to go to bed (we were never ready to stop talking), it was too late for me to go to my lodgings, and he would insist on my turning in with him, which I would do, sharing his room and bed. Often in the evening we would stroll through the dark streets, for it was only at this time that he would venture out, hardly knowing what kind of a reception would be his if he were recognized, for to its eternal infamy be it said, one of the leading (?) papers of New York had denounced him in the most bitter manner, and said that neither he nor any of his name would ever again be permitted to appear upon the stage of any theater in the United States. It is a singular comment on this that the only vote ever cast by Edwin Booth for president of the United States was for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, and that he saved the life of one of Abraham Lincoln's sons. Booth himself told me of this occurrence. He had started for Philadelphia from New York, and while he was standing on the platform of a car, still in the Pennsylvania railroad station at Jersey City, and just as the train was about to move, a young lad, going from one car to another, stumbled and would have fallen between them, had not Edwin caught him by the collar of the coat and landed him in safety by his side. The boy, whom Edwin had never seen before, evidently recognized him, and holding out his hand said to him: "That was a narrow escape, Mr. Booth," and thanked him warmly. Two weeks later Edwin received a letter from General Adam Badeau in which the latter mentioned that Robert Lincoln had told him that it was his life that had thus been saved.

Steam Power in Sugar Mills.

Steam power is being gradually introduced into the sugar mills, but the island of Barbadoes is still well studded with windmills, which pleasantly diversify the monotonous aspect of the over cultivated country. Indeed with so constant a power as the trade wind, most of the work of this favored land can be performed almost free of cost. If you need water you have only to sink a well and erect a windmill over it, which will keep your reservoir full. The coral rock is so porous that there is no such thing as a river in the whole island. The whole rainfall sinks through the soil to form underground streams, which discharge their copious floods below the surface of the sea.

Will Any Be Deterred?

Mr. Darley, reading—A shower of rice thrown after a bride and bridegroom in England as they were starting on their wedding journey caused the horses attached to their carriage to bolt, with the result that the ordregroom was thrown out and received serious injuries!

Mrs. Darley, who has been refused money for a new bonnet, spitefully—Another warning against marriage.—Vogue.

Hard Times Soreened Birdie.

Birdie McGinniss—Are you still angry with me, Charlie? Charlie Bondelipper—Angry about what, Birdie?

Birdie McGinniss—You know about a year ago you offered me your hand, and I cruelly rejected your offer. I have—have thought better of it since.

Charlie Bondelipper—Hump! So have I.—Texas Sittings.

Electric Light for Bait.

Electric light is being used as a bait by fishermen who ply their calling along the Pacific coast. This Yankee adaptation of electricity brings big hauls. The fish are attracted by the bright light in the water, and their investigations generally end in their being hooked while trying to swallow the glass globules.

Why He Dined at the Club.

"Hallo, old man! How's it you're dining at the club? Thought your wife told me she had the Browns and Smiths to dinner this evening."

"No, that was yesterday. This evening she has the odds and ends."

—Punch.