Africa at present is Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal, where Oom Paul has made the most elaborate preparathe Boers may be relied upon to make a most stubborn resistance. The place is defended by nature and art as few other towns in the world, and has been described by some military writers as being impregnable. On three sides of Pretoria the mountain ranges rise to elevations of 1.000 and 2.000 feet above the streets of the city, which itself is 4,500 feet above sealevel, but 1,100 feet lower than the site of Johannesburg, to the south. On the fourth side-the south and facing the approach from Johannesburg - the range flattens away to a vast level plateau, treeless, desolate, exposed at every point to the sweep of any guns that may command it. The town is 1,080 miles from Cape Town, 50 from Johannesburg. On the map it seems as easy of approach as a prairie village in Nebraska. But the map topographer fails to present the lofty, barren hills that face the southern plateau, the precipitous banks of Aapies river, the narrow gorges-so few in number—the innumerable "spion" or lookout kopjes that seem literally to leap from the bosom of the plain and sullenly, silently oppose access to the capital city. The civil engineers who laid out the railway from Johannesburg to Pretoria found such problems of grade and mountain resistance offered them that the road finally was forced to enter the city on a line resembling the curves and twists of a great boa constrictor.

You look up to the mountain fronts as your train struggles to find its way into Pretcria, and wherever the eye rests there appears to be the lines of a fort, a redoubt, the front of masked batteries or the domes of boom-proof rifle and cannon pits. To the north, east, west and south these engirdle the city. They command the few-very few -narrow entrances to Pretoria. They watch like great dogs the dusty, sunrotted veldt over which any English troops coming from the south must pass. They blink at the one railroad to Johannesburg and the one to Lourenco Marques. Their location has been with purpose. Capt. Schiel, now an English prisoner, constructed the one at Daspoort from plans obtained in Berlin. He brought special assistants and the last-mentioned magazine is by from Berlin to aid him in the work. Amsterdam engineers built others of the defenses. After them came French and they have pipes laid for water, as engineers, and then those of Italy, so well as electric lights for the searchthat the completed structures repre- lights. sent the genius of four nations.

There are seven of these forts and in external appearance they look alike. They have mason y faces, with earth- the liege train en route from England. work which covers their fronts to a This is the second train of its kind great depth. In this they conform with plans and suggestions to be found in M. Bloch's much-studied work. "The Future of War." Pile upon pile of sand bags are stacked up wherever shells from the enemy might strike. There are many hidden recesses, secret passages, complete telephone connections-not only with each other, but with the government buildings in Pretoria. Searchlights are mounted in each structure so as to command the surrounding country at night. The magazines are underground, and are reported to be mined. Report has it, der of the army to guard the fortificaalso, that the near approaches are mined and that the electrical construction is such that considerable portions of an enemy's army might be blown into eternity before surrender came. For food, in the event of siege, enormous quantities of maize have been accumulated-enough, it is said, to feed the army and the population of Pretoria for five years. The supply of ammunition is calculated to be sufficlent for two years. How many guns are mounted or will be it is difficult to estimate. The total artillery force it is Less Than Half an Inch Squar of the Boers at present is estimated at 450 guns by the English.

The guns originally placed in the forts were 15-centimeter Creusots, but

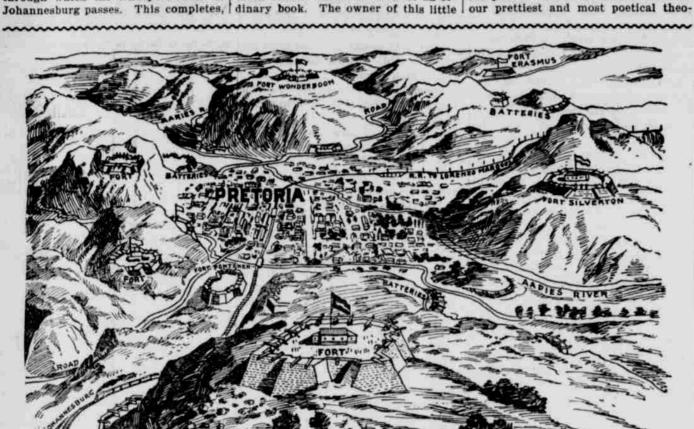
the siege successful.

The most important place in South | bay forever. Right or wrong, he main- | has been that. The Cleveland book tains that occupying a besieging po- breaks the record in size, or lack of sition, devoid of sustenance, the Eng- size, for printed books. There are rare lish will be in greater danger of starva- little volumes engraved on ivory tions to withstand a siege and where tion than the Boers, and that convoy fastened together like a book, but supplies cannot be brought in with they are not really books in the estisuch repidity and success as to make mation of collectors of miniature volumes. The Bijou Almanac is a real The fountains, or water supply, of book, printed on real paper, and bound Pretoria is within the radius of forts. in stiff little blue covers. It was made The westernmost fort is on the range in London in 1836 by Schloss. It has of hills behind Pretoria, and lies at a sixty pages, a calendar for each month. distance of 31,000 feet from the city's and some wonderfully delicate little center. There is a powerful redoubt steel engravings. It is half an inch to the southwest on the range of hills | wide and five-eighths long, and not through which the transport road to much thicker than the cover of an or-

gave way to the clergyman. They sang did not want to take any more chances.

ALL DUE TO APPETITE, Will the Girls of the Future Be a Race

of Giantesses? Why are almost all girls tall nowadays? Or, perhaps, one should rather say, how is it that modern maidens are so much more developed than those of a generation or two back? We have been assured that it is because they take so much more outdoor exercise, and because they go in for physical training, that they have literally grown up in this extraordinary fashion. It pleased a great many people to have this theory deduced. But we are never suffered to hold any theories long nowadays. Thus, one of those deplorably unromantic persons who revel in horrid prosaic facts that knock down all



CITY OF PRETORIA, SHOWING DEFENSES

cle of the larger works defending the Boer capital. Behind the great redoubt mentioned are the principal magazines, one excavated out of the solid rock, with a bombproof roof, and the other built into the kloop, also bombproof. Communication between the redoubt means of a covered way. Roads connect all these forts with the capital,

An English view of what can be done with the Pretoria fortifications found in the following description of sent out from England during the last forty-six years. The last occasion was when sixty-five heavy guns and mortars were sent from Woolwich for the siege of Sebastopol, where, with fifty ship guns, they took part in the bombardment of that city in connection with the French siege train. The train now on its way out from England comprizes thirty howitzers, fourteen of 8inch caliber, eight of 5-inch and eight of 4-inch. It is calculated that the investment of Pretoria will require 42,-600 British troops, leaving the remaintions, occupy certain strategetic points and operate against that part of the Boer army not required for the defense of Pretoria. This part of the Boer army is expected to fall back into the north in the Zoutpansberg mountains, which the Boers are reported to intend to make their stronghold, and where they expect to carry on the war against England indefinitely.

WORLD'S SMALLEST BOOK. and Contains Thirteen Pages.

The smallest book in the world has just been printed in Cleveland, says the Leader of that city. But ten of their number is not definitely known. them were printed, and none of them M. Bloch has estimated that it will re- is for sale. In all the catalogues of the quire but 500 men to each of these rare book dealers, what is called the forts, each force supplied with ten Bijou Almanac is named as the smallmodern guns, to keep the English at est book in the world, and until now

weight in gold, is Charles H. Meigs of 67 Eastman street, who is also the publisher of the other tiny book mentioned, the one that is the smallest in | are told, is that they eat twice as much the world. This smallest book in the world measures just three-eighths of tite used to be considered de rigueur; an inch by half an inch over all. There are thirteen pages in it, and the work has been done in a Cleveland printing establishment. The type was set by hand, and then the pages photographed substantial fare it was that was supdown to the limit of distinctness, though the book can only be read with a magnifying glass. Under a strong she is at no pains to conceal it; indeed, glass, however, the work is seen to be she rather vaunts it than otherwise. A distinct and perfect. It is printed on genuine India paper, and this is one of the most interesting things about | never trifles with fripperies. There is the tiny book. The Oxford Press, the English Bible publishing concern, controls all the genuine India paper produced, and it was with the greatest difficulty that enough was procured to make even the ten copies of this tiny book. It is said that the paper was surreptitiously obtained. The title of the book is "Thus Spake the Wind," a very old religious poem of no parlar interest.

AGAINST THE ORGAN.

A Maine Parson Struggles and Comes Out Second Best.

In a Kennebec church Sunday week, says the Lewiston Journal, a new minister-that is, one who was being given a try-had about as much trouble as usually falls to the lot of one poor candidate. He arrived early at the church and found that the furnace was out of gear and that the auditorium was densely filled with smoke. The janitor and the gathering congregation opened the windows and labored with the furnace, and at last cleared the room enough so that the minister was dimly discernible through the blue ear-producing haze. The services started with a congregation whose eyes were affame and a minister who was beginning to get uneasy. The voluntary was nearly over when one of the stops failed and a shrill, high pipe began to whistle. It pervaded the score of the music and the organist couldn't | ties. drown it out, no matter how much he hammered the other keys. At last he stopped. But the high whistle kept right on. The organist jabbed the stop in hopeless wrath, but to no avail. The music kept pouring out despite all he could do. The congregation wore a broad grin. The minister tried to look as though nothing had happened, and the services went on. The next hymn went all right-it didn't contain the note that bothered-and the parson and the organist breathed easier. Then came the last hymn before the sermon, and once more the single, piercing note rose high above the tune the organist was playing. The last verse was sung, the organist paused and the congregation rustled into their seats and settled themselves for the sermon. But the organ kept on. The minister rose and stepped forward to begin. But he couldn't with that ear-piercing whistle in the air. He looked reproachfully at the organ, but the brazen thing only whistled away in the same mocking way. The audience was smiling broadly, and the minister could not help fateful question, "Will he love me but smile, too. And there they gat

with various earth batteries, the cir- | book, which is worth several times its | ries, has discovered the real reason why girls are so much taller at the end of the century than they were at the beginning and middle. The truth, we as their predecessors. A small appeto be hungry, per contra, was vulgar. But the modern maiden makes no pretense of living on air, or love, or meringues, or felly, or whatever unposed to nourish the girl of other days. She has a good hearty appetite, and good dinner she thoroughly appreciates, and when she can get meat she doubtless a great deal in this very prosaic explanation of an obvious fact. But if it be true, then we must keep our girls well in hand. "Increase of appetite," the immortal maker of apt quotations has told us, "grows on that it feeds on," and if our maidens continue to develop good appetites, and engender them by much outdoor exercise, the women of the future will be a race of giantesses.-London

Where the Yankee Was Slow.

We want small American retailers over here, writes a soldier from the Philippines. Wherever the army goes they should follow. Something should be done to encourage them to come here. They should be guaranteed protection, and in times of trouble an asylum for themselves and their property in army quarters. We want American retailers of shoes, clothing, haberdashery, stationery, provisions and canned goods. We want small restaurants and beer saloons. The prevailing margins of profits are enormous. The stock necessary is small. A few hundred dollars would buy it. I'm beginning to think since I came over here that the Yankee is the slowest man on earth. Every other nationality is getting a hand in on the Philippines. What is the matter with the American? He isn't coming fast enough and is missing big opportuni-

Eager for Gold. Nicaragua boasts a volcano called Misaya, about which a curious but hardly credible story is told. When, in 1522, the Spaniards overrun the state, the volcano was very lively. Many of the victorious Spaniards thought that the raging fire at the foot of the crater was neither more nor less than purest gold in molten state. The puzzle was how to get it. But at last a few men, more foolish and more venturesome than their mates, had themselves lowered down until, by means of an iron chain with a bucket at the end of it, they could reach the flery mass. Of course, as soon as the bucket neared the surface it was melted in a moment, and the silly fellows, when drawn up, were half dead from the heat and the poisonous smoke.

Almost There Already. Miss Fortce-Yes, dear, we have been engaged for a long time, but what has prevented me from taking the irrevocable step has always been the when I grow old?" Miss Tennyeyeing each other till the organ had Don't worry, darling; you'll soon know exhausted the supply of wind in its now .- Stray Stories.

CASUALTIES.

A woman took a leading part in a labor riot at the Merchants' Loan and Trust building, Chicago, in which many were injured.

Landslip buries half the houses in the village of Klappai, Bohemia, the occupants barely escaping with their

Anderson-McKelvy Lead and Oil company's big building in Pittsburg collapsed, killing four persons.

CRIME.

Two Fort Dodge girls sent to reform school because they attended theatrical performances twice a day. Berlin society women fought a duel.

Man arrested in New York accused of complicity in theft of \$16,000 worth of beer stamps.

Melba's husband, Charles N. F. Armstrong of Texas, secured divorce on ground of desertion.

Porch climbers entered the house of O. W. Potter, Chicago, and stole \$20,-000 worth of jewelry and other valua-

MISCELLANEOUS.

Duke d'Arcos, Spanish minister to the United States, refuses to attend the Dewey celebration at Chicago

A stranger startled worshipers in Trinity Episcopal church, Chicago, by striding up to the chancel and shouting, "I am the Resurrection and the

Col. Bacon of New York has issued a publication accusing Theodore Roosevelt of "quitting" at the battle of Santiago.

Robbers beat Kate Sullivan to death and her sister Joanna until she became insane in an Ohio farmhouse, where the two women, who were reputed to be wealthy, lived alone.

Prince Ferdinand will not attend the wedding of Prince Louis of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and Princess Mathilda of Bavaria because Prince Regent Luitpold doesn't like Ferdinand's proposed change of religion.

Danger of famine in Persia.

Professional base ball season opens this week.

Russian military experts surveying railroads through the south and in

Dr. Leyds joined Boer peace commissioners and they held formal meet-

ing in Milan. Viceroy Curzon told Baluchistan it would be protected, thus giving Rus-

sia a hint. France exerting pressure on Turtey to obtain railroad concessions in

Pope sent king of Spain his miniaure and an autograph letter.

Czar's envoy has completed his mison in Abyssinia. Italy dissatisfied with her position

n the dreibund. Diamonds discovered in British

Edmond Rostand is dangerously ill.

Cates of Karnak found in Egypt. Sitas B. Cobb's estate, Chicago, esilmate at \$3,500,000; will filed, be-

queathing \$87,500 to charity. Paris thronged with visitors to attend opening of exposition. Many

buildings incomplete, some still unroofed, and no exhibits ready. Will not be complete for six weeks. Relatives of the wife of William H.

Parlin will fight his suit for divorce brought in Seattle on the ground of incurable insanity.

The steel stocks are weak on manipu-

lation; the railway shares strong. The Burlington road is preparing then. plans for an extension of its line to

Yellowstone park. Lady Schorr won the Ardelle stakes

at Memphis. The committee in charge has announced the program of athletic sports

for the Paris exposition. Gov. Roosevelt has positively refused to be a candidate for vice-president.

Paris hears that an entente has been concluded between Russia and Bul-

Franz Josef washed feet of twelve oldest men in Vienna.

London Mail praised Viceroy Cur-Destructive floods in Austria.

Naval board of construction decided against double turrets for new battle-Schley may get pay as rear admiral

from date when his promotion was first proposed.

Miles' friends believe his promotion to rank of lieutenant-general is cer-

Suggested that fund be raised to pay for cablegrams for sick soldiers. Contractors will not have guns for

coast refense ready on time. Bank presidents and capitalists interviewed at Chicago all say they vote at every election.

Clerical leader in Bavarian house of delegates opposes indirect election.

Physicians in Cracow hospital threaten to strike for increased pay. Czar's demands on Corea for Masampo said to have been renewed.

Australia seems in no mood to accept British supremacy in the federation scheme. It is probable a republic will be formed unless the desired independence can be otherwise obtained.

Ex-Gov. Altgeld is opposed to nomnation of Pattison for vice-president by democrats.

Trainloads of people from all quarters of the globe are rushing to Paris. The city is being decorated and the ex-

position is nearing completion. Announcement is made of the engagement of John D. Rockefeller's

daughter Alta to E. Parmalee Prentice of Chicago.

Nebraska university regents elected E. Benjamin Andrews of Chicago chancellor by a partisan vote. He may not accept.

OUR CALENDAR.



MINOR EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

Items of General Interest Told in Paragraphs.

COMPLETE NEWS SUMMARY.

Record of Happenings of Much or Little Importance from All Parts of the Civilized World-Prices of Farm Produce in Western Markets.

Marquis de Gallifet, French minister of war, believed to be dying of pneumonia.

Rome fearful that meeting of emperors threatens Italy's interests in

German Colonial society may experiment with cotton in Africa. Two French merchant vessels to be built in Germany.

More Russian troops sent to Port Arthur. Pugllist Terry McGovern will become

an actor with a "speaking part." Gov. Taylor of Kentucky is in Washington looking over his case before Supreme court.

Too much pressure exploded a defective gas pipe near Logansport, killing two men. Troops sent to prevent rioting by

strikers at the Croton dam. Automobiles to be used on the La

Parra ranch in Texas. New York's Easter parade larger than usual.

Senator Hanna ill with the grip. Real estate in Fifth avenue, New York, is held at \$7,000 a front fool. Women in a Cleveland church ab-

stained from new Easter millinery and gave the money to raise church debt. Dr. Parkhurst wants a revision of the Westminster confession, declaring it an incubus that prevents Presbyte-

rian progress. President Harper will invite Count

Tolstoi to visit Chicago. Secretary Root asked congress to establish six additional brigadier generalships as reward for officers.

Secretary Root favors sending staff men back into the line every now and

Navy department agreed to pay \$150,000 for the Holland submarine boat.

Dr. D. K. Pearsons of Illinois will give away \$500,000 to celebrate his eightieth birthday.

German paper is stirred to anger by the election of American trade promoters to membership in a Lusatian

chamber of commerce. Miss Helen Gould is besieged by thousands of applicants asking millions in charity. In one week the requests aggregated \$1,548,502.

Plot to dynamite the jail at Watseka, Ill., and free James Dunlap, held for bank robbery, is discovered. Miss Nellie Lewis is awarded damages in \$50,000 for breach of promise against Millionaire Sam Strong of Cripple Creek, Colo.

Commodity prices show no sign of a reaction.

The largest and most powerful locomotive in the world is being built in Pittsburg and will be exhibited in

Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews, Dr. Henry Wade Rogers, and other prominent educators lost money by fostering a scheme to take 3,000 teachers to Paris

for study and to see the exposition. Wall street men are elated over the showing of the weekly bank statement. Colorado college built a \$60,000 lab-

oratory and will get \$50,000 from Dr. Pearsons. Two New York magistrates favor

whipping post for wife beaters. French ministry sustained, after attack led by Castellane and based on failure to protest against landing of British at Biera, on Millerand's influence, and on measures against politi-

cal monks. Russian minister of war will inspect every post in central Asia.

band and daughter made New York

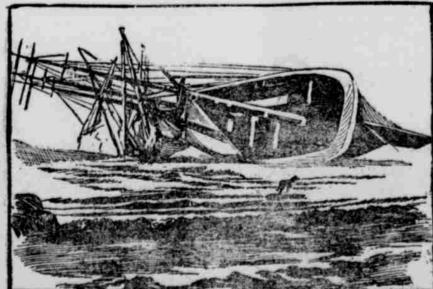
Men defeated women in Beattle, Constant weeping over death of hus-

Dr. Taylor in Utica presbytery urged elimination of election and reprobation doctrines.

New York Methodists voted against criticising the Rev. Mr. Sheldon's рарег.

Spiritualists' national convention opened at Chicago.

A REMARKABLE WRECK.



A full-rigged ship was left lying in this queer position on the beach near Southampton three weeks ago, after a terrible storm. The crew escaped in