

se Thorn, reached the remarkable age 55, and was hale and hearty enough to receive his friends who called to congratulate him on his anniversary, and leave substantial tokens of remembrance. "Bessie" will poll a straight Democrat the next Tuesday as usual.

AMONG FOREIGNERS.

The Paros of India do not put their dead upon the ground, but deposit them upon the tops of towers to decay and be consumed by the carrion birds. These queer receptacles of the dead are called the Towers of Silence.

When a prominent person among the Tartars dies there ensues what Americans would term a regular circus. Hired mourners cut and slash themselves, priests kick and howl, and the women give way to all sorts of caprices.

A traveler in Barcelona describes the costumes of the natives as very novel and picturesque; the girls fine looking, with dark skin and glorious eyes; the men courteous, active and expert in throwing their odd, Moorish knives, and marvelous mountain climbers.

The Armenians of Russia Trans-Caucasia enjoy a one-man power in each home. The grandfather commands. The entire family, children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and grandchildren all obey him. The wife is condemned to silence from her marriage till the birth of her first child.

The Kachetians are great drunkards, and their women paint their faces horribly. Their fiery wine is kept in hog skins. To make the skin supple they skin the hog alive in a horrible manner, then soak the hides in naphtha. The wine therein tastes like benzene, but the natives like it.

A large part of the food of the denizens of the extreme North is said to consist of meal ground from prehistoric bones and shells abundant in the soil. According to reports Lapland alone consumes car-loads annually obtained from one section. This queer edible is mixed with grain meals in cooking.

One great and striking peculiarity of the Japanese is the fact that they speak a polysyllabic language, but write a monosyllabic—that is, they speak their own native language, but write the Chinese or character language. This they must learn to read and write the Chinese language; though they never speak it.

An African correspondent writes of the inhabitants of the White Nile countries saying, that among them are tribes as white as Europeans, with long, silky hair, the beards of some of the old men reaching to their feet. Many of the black tribes eat none but human flesh, men and women being sold in the markets at as much a pound, the same as beef or mutton.

Among the Arabs courtship is regarded as an important event in life. The Arab loves as none but an Arab can love; but he is also mightily excitable and easily won. An Arab sees a girl bearing water or brushwood, and in a moment, almost at a glance, is as madly in love as if he had passed years of courtship. He thinks of nothing else, cares and dreams of nothing else but the girl he loves; and not infrequently, if he is disappointed in his affections, he pines and dies.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

The present production of steel is 1,540,000 tons per year while 64,000 tons was the limit fourteen years ago.

In 1897 there were 1,300 miles of railroad; now there are 138,135 miles, 13,500 miles more than there are in all Europe.

One of the thriving industries of Colorado City, Col., is the mining of gypsum and the grinding of the mineral for the purpose of converting it into plaster of paris.

About 900,000 tons of iron are yearly produced by the Southern States alone with a prospect of a three-fold increase when all furnaces under contract are completed.

There are about 15,000 periodicals now published in this country with a circulation exceeding 31,000,000 copies. In the purchase of these \$50,800,000 are annually spent.

In thirty years' time the woolen manufacture of this country have increased from \$20,000,000 to \$287,000,000. In twenty years the cotton industry has risen in value from \$107,000,000 to \$211,000,000.

Of the 294,000 tons of zinc produced in the world in 1885, the United States contributed fully one-ninth or 36,339 tons. It is reported that the fields are enlarging yearly and the yield proportionately larger.

The growth of the silk industry in America is regarded with surprise and alarm by the manufacturers abroad. Paterson, N. J., is the great center for this article, turning out annually over one hundred million dollars' worth of silk goods.

It is thought that at no distant day the culture of the olive will become one of the most important as well as profitable fields of horticultural enterprise with us, as it is at present with many countries in the south of Europe, whose chief revenue is derived from the export of olive oil and pickled olives.

SUGAR can now be, refined in this country at a profit of an eighth of a cent a pound, and sometimes as low as a sixteenth; or in other words, from eight to sixteen pounds of raw sugar must now be treated in refining in order to make a cent, from eight hundred to sixteen hundred pounds to make a dollar of commerce. They cut off the head, strip off the skin all the way round, split the fish and take out the backbone, so nearly in one motion that the eyes of the onlooker are deceived.

BUSINESS NOTES.

The manufacture of watches is on the increase and the supply is generally unequal to the demand.

The value of breadstuffs exported from the United States during the last year approximated \$221,000,000.

The wool clip of the United States increased from 254,000,000 in 1880 to 320,000,000 in 1885, or 24.6 per cent, in six years.

APRILTON, Wis., is now the second city in the country in the matter of paper production, the yearly output being exceeded only by that of Lockport, N. Y.

The total value of exports of merchandise from the United States for the last year footed up \$717,022,320, while that of imports for the same time was \$701,330,830.

The forest area owned by the United States Government is reported as representing a capital of \$80,000,000; of this it is said \$5,000,000 is yearly lost by fire.

CALIFORNIA ranks third as an oil-producing State, with the prospect of a second place in the near future. In 1879 the product was 508,000 gallons, which was increased to nearly 11,000,000 gallons last year.

Respective values of farm products of the United States, a total of \$4,014,000,000 annually, corn leads off at a valuation of \$697,000,000, wheat follows at \$440,000,000, hay \$360,000,000, followed by beef, pork, cotton and poultry. Cotton stands seventh in the list. But cotton is still the leading article of export.

RENTED GARMENTS.

Where Some St. Paul Women Obtain Elegant Party Costumes.

"Oh yes, they do—that is, not the real society ladies, but some of those people who want to put on style and can't really afford it."

This was the answer of a well-known St. Paul milliner to the query of a *Globe* reporter as to whether it was customary for some ladies in the city to rent opera toilets, and hats and appropriate, bewitching costumes for great and gala occasions. She continued:

"Why, really, I do believe I can go to the theater any night and pick out the rented hats and dresses. You will find some at the races if you are smart enough. What? Why, you're a perfect ninny. I did really suppose you knew something. Do you mean to tell me you don't think there are ladies in this free-and-easy-going Northwest who would stoop to wearing a Spanish cape and a hat and frills for which they had only the face value of the rental? What in the world do you suppose we are in the business for? I only wish there were more of them. To tell you the truth, since you seem capable of learning something, we don't think very much of such females, but when it comes to business they are our great mainstay, and we don't intend to offend them or drive them away, for there is more money in leasing a few choice toilets a few times and getting them back again as good as new than in selling them outright. But you gentlemen are so wise and full of sneers that I suppose you wouldn't believe me if I told you that lots of your precious dudes go to their tailors and rent a perfect outfit every time they want to come out particularly swell. Of course, of course—you say it's only the soft-pated fools who do that. May I tell you that among ladies it is only the most silly coquettes and dandies that go and rent their fine frounces and particularly matching shades. Oh, well, there are a few matrons and sober daughters who do the same thing, but I suppose you have heard in your very premature lifetime of the codfish aristocracy, haven't you?"

A GROUNDLESS MYTH.

The Familiar "clief in the Use of Chloroform by Burglars Exploded.

An old detective, in the employ of *Inspector* Burns, was telling a New York *Mail and Express* reporter a blood-curdling tale of midnight robbery.

"Why didn't the burglar chloroform the man the moment he got into the room?" inquired the reporter. "You say he was there half an hour before the man woke up and captured him."

"Didn't I tell you that the man was over six feet tall and as strong as a bull, while the burglar was a boy only sixteen years old?"

"Yes, but what of that?"

"Did you ever see a man chloroformed?"

"No."

"Will you go into a doctor's office sometime and see how it is done? Unless a man is held down by force or submits himself willingly to the operation it is impossible to chloroform him."

"Yes, but this man was in a sound sleep."

"What of that? Do you know how long it takes to put a man under the influence of chloroform?"

"A minute or so, I suppose."

"Two or three minutes rather, and the first application of the drug is certain to awaken any living man who is not under the influence of some powerful narcotic. Before he had taken two whiffs of the anesthetic he would have been wide-awake, and the robber would have been captured half an hour earlier than he was."

"But they do chloroform people sometimes, don't they?" asked the reporter.

"If you refer to doctors, I would say yes, but if you mean burglars, I would say no. I don't know a single instance, though the public and the press believe there are many every month. I think I can prove it to you. Every case where a man is chloroformed, according to his own account of his adventure, he has recovered. How often do you hear of men dying under the influence of chloroform when it is carefully administered by a skilled physician? Very often, indeed. The chloroform must be properly mixed with fresh air, and even then the experiment is often fatal. Now, do you think that an ignorant burglar could always avoid killing his victim? Neither do I nor any one else who has given the subject a close study."

"No, sir," added the detective, in conclusion. "I tell you, chloroforming persons by thieves is a myth and a fraud. It is a story originated by the victims to add a more startling flavor to their yarns and to account more clearly for their weak submission, which I have found is caused more by fear than chloroform."

SOLVED IN SLEEP.

How a Pennsylvania Farmer Cracked a Tough Mathematical Nut.

Rev. J. Milton Akers writes from Pine Island, Minn., to the *Methodist Christian Advocate* as follows: "In the winter of 1880-81 the writer was teaching school in Bedford County, Pa., and boarding with a substantial farmer named Anthony Felton. The family was one of remarkable ingenuity. One night after school the conversation turned upon difficult problems in mathematics. I mentioned one that my brother had sent me, which I considered quite intricate. The question was as follows (I reproduce from memory): 'Sold 5,000 lbs. Flemish cloth for \$21.225, and gained as much per yard as one-eighth of the prime cost of an English oil. What is the prime cost per yard, and of the whole piece?' On repeating the question my host told me promptly it could not be done."

"I repeated it for him several times during the evening until he had his conditions well fixed in his mind. I assured him I had solved it by algebra, of which he knew nothing. The next morning, on coming from my rooms, he said: 'I can tell you all about the problem now.' Upon asking him how he reached the solution, he said: 'I dreamed it out.' I smiled incredulously, for I had no faith in such straight dreaming. I said: 'Let me see your solution,' and to my astonishment and delight he produced an arithmetical solution that was a marvel of analytical simplicity. I then asked more particularly about the dream. He said: 'An old man, to whom I had at one time gone to school, came to me in my dream, and, seeing I was troubled about something, asked me the cause. I repeated the question to him and told him that I had told the master it could not be solved. The old man said to me: 'It makes no difference what you told the master; it can be worked.' And he remembered it so distinctly that he solved the question by the instructions received in his dream."

What the Average Man Eats.

The averaged man throughout the civilized world annually consumes 445 pounds of grain, 70 pounds of meat, 7 pounds of butter, and 20 pounds of sugar.

THE BUSY MOSQUITO.

A Thorn in the Side of Autumn, a Friend Internal, an Angel Unaware.

Of all insects for the gratuitous perpetration of whose race we are lastingly indebted to Noah, none is more industrious, valiant and blood-thirsty than the mosquito, writes Harry Holt in the *Chicago Herald*. Since antediluvian times his instincts have ever been aristocratic. While other families of his kindred are content with various lower order of animals he gleams his substance from the choicest bits of humanity. Lo, the bluest blood of the F. F. V.'s and the Knickerbocker blood of generations steeped in gentility flows in his veins; he chants a soothing lullaby in the ears of the sleeping babe and his murderous evening lay about the pillow of the capitalist alike; he displays a preference only in favor of the one who listens most attentively to his song—as he sings on and on—merrily, melodiously, murderously. Summer without the friendliness of the house fly, the fragrance of the boudoir insect, and the activity of the flea are as nothing compared to the instincts of the sanguineous mosquito. In the Sunny South he finds his home—some few of him (prodigal sons as it were) have escaped to the North and reared families of their own; the field in the new land is vast, and legions of veal people and scores of many colored coats offer no temptation to him to return to his native heath. But in all the beauty and unity of a large and well established family he is to be found only in the South. In the North he matures later and dies earlier; alas, for his enterprising spirit. Yes; the land of the sun is the home of the mosquito. Here doth he multiply and increase a thousand fold, and many generations rise up and call him blessed. Here, through a blissful eternity of promising sunrise and scorching noonday, furious sunset and radiant moonlight, he feasts on the arms and ankles in the family till a less zealous veteran would grow weary with riotous feasting and old age, but like the kind words that never die, he threatens to become immortal and he grows intoxicated with the lifeblood of helpless humanity. He notes his lungs strengthen and his voice become cultivated; generosity takes root in his heart, and he is called an antidote for fevers.

What a marvelous economist is nature in all her works! In well disciplined armies does this belligerent invader and fever specific commit his depredations. Would you rather have the fever? You don't know what is best for you; the mosquito knows. He does his duty, and then if you have the fever his conscience is clear; he did what he could for humanity's sake.

So he divides his armies—one for day and one for night work. The day mosquito is your sworn friend; he keeps the fever destiny to which you are rushing continually in view, and he toils early and late for your salvation. Then the nocturnal force comes on duty. He appears in your presence in the light of your frowning friend; you may regard him in the light of a smiling enemy; but you mistake; he extracts each tiny germ of disease from your corruptible body, but like many another blessing you refuse to recognize him.

In Texas the mosquito finds his most popular stamping ground; Texas, wherein the daughter of the cowboy wears rubber hoisery and leather gloves; adorns her hat with the protective bee-net, and carries eighteen-inch cut glass vinaigrettes containing amonia, wherein to anoint the reminders of this committee on sanitation. O, valiant, murderous, melodious mosquito; great is the number of thy victims; diurnal, nocturnal, eternal are thy days; vast is thy progeny, bloodthirsty thy nature, striped thy hoisery, a thorn thou art in the side of summer, a fiend infernal, an angust.

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