

ber of farmers living ten miles west of here have established a telephone system covering eight miles of wire which is an application of scientific principles with a vengeance. Farms in this vicinity are surrounded by barb wire fence. Each farmer is supplied with a transmitter at his house connecting with the wire of the fence. The staples have been removed from this wire and insulators substituted. A cell battery has been constructed and the farmers are now able to converse with each other. The expense of the entire system did not exceed \$25.

Boston, April 27.—Charles Beale, one of the largest sugar growers in Cuba, is at Young's hotel. He recently arrived from Cuba, and he says he has been in the regions where the insurgents are. He declares that the revolution is the greatest struggle the island has ever known, and notwithstanding all reports to the contrary, the rebel troops are everywhere gaining the upper hand. They have, according to Mr. Beale, the moral as well as the financial support of all the large cane growers.

PRESCOTT, Ariz., April 28.—An accident in the McCabe mine yesterday resulted in the death of Peter McGlendon, a miner. He started with a companion to go from the 450-foot level to the top of the shaft in a cage used for hoisting ore. At the 300-foot level he took a third man on, and in pulling the bellicord to signal the engineer to hoist the cage the wire rope broke about 200 feet above them and dropped on to the cage, catching McGlendon in its coils, causing him to fall sixty feet to the bottom of the shaft. Death was instantaneous, his neck being broken. His two companions escaped uninjured.

NEW YORK, April 29.—The Japanese minister at Washington publishes in the May number of the *North American Review* which will be issued tomorrow, a statement in regard to the future of Japan. Mr. Kurino acknowledges that "in the past Japan has received from the United States proof of a spirit of altruism rare, if not unique in the intercourse of nations, but he points out the interest which Americans have hitherto taken in the east, has been in the main sentimental. He thinks there are signs, however, that this is now giving way to the distinct recognition of the fact that no western power has greater or more vital concern in eastern affairs than the United States.

Mr. Kurino insists that they are capable of triumphs in peace as well as victories in war. In fact the military affairs of the country have been developed only as an indispensable adjunct to the national welfare.

Mr. Kurino hesitates to predict what the future of Japan will be, but one fact is certain—that the whole empire in every department of labor and enterprise has partaken of the forward movement which began with Japan's emergence from the sleep of centuries and that while failure has been met in some directions the general advance has been so marked and so successful as to afford the amplest promise of future prosperity and continued progress.

GUADALAJARA, Mex., April 29.—The Colima volcano is again in active eruption and the inhabitants of the

valley have been forced to flee for their lives. Molten lava and ashes have destroyed the growing crops and much valuable property. The fire which issues from the crater presents a magnificent sight at night.

PITTSBURG, April 29.—A frame dwelling owned by Henry Snyder and occupied by Samuel Weaver and family was burned last night. Weaver, who was very ill with typhoid fever; Frederick Snyder, a son of the owner of the building, and William Mitchell, a nurse attending Weaver, were burned to death. Mrs. Weaver is in a critical condition from burns and fright. She is the mother of a two days' old baby and she and her child were rescued with great difficulty.

ELYRIA, O., April 29.—The G. A. R. hall was almost demolished today by a terrific gas explosion. Janitor Martin Elder was terrible burned.

### QUICKEST RAILROAD RUNS OF THE PAST.

Nearly nineteen years ago, or to be exact, in June, 1876, a Pennsylvania railroad standard locomotive, drawing a train of two sleeping-cars and a dining car, covered the distance between Jersey City and Pittsburg, four hundred and thirty-eight and five-tenths miles, without a stop, in six hundred and five minutes, or an average rate of forty-three and one-half miles an hour. This journey is noteworthy as the longest known continuous run; and one which involved thorough transportation arrangements for its movement, and great endurance on the part of the locomotive. The special train was en route to San Francisco, which city was reached in eighty-four hours and seventeen minutes after leaving New York.

The train which conveyed President Garfield from Washington to Elberon, September 7th, 1881, was run under conditions of great excitement and anxiety. His life hung upon a thread, and any detention of the train would have resulted disastrously. The excitement was intense, and prostration was imminent. The physicians had fixed upon thirty miles an hour as the speed which would give the least discomfort to the patient. After the train was well under way, and without warning, an increase of speed was determined upon, which reached sixty-five miles an hour before the journey was completed. This order for the transportation of this train was contained in one message, and so skilfully was it worded that, despite the changed conditions, there was not the slightest detention from any cause.—Melville Phillips in *The New Science Review*, for April.

### A LITTLE HERO.

The little drummer boy of the civil war, sounding the reveille or beat taps, will always be an interesting figure among Grand Army men. A correspondent of the *Syracuse Courier* writes of an incident in the life of Prof. Baldwin, who served as a drummer boy during the war.

The Union general wished to gain some information regarding the location of the rebel army. The little drummer

boy was selected to obtain the desired knowledge. Dusty and tired he started out after dark on his dangerous mission. Before he was aware of the fact he was within the rebel lines and a prisoner.

He was brought before the commanding officer and charged with being a spy. A drum-head court martial was ordered and the little drummer boy speedily convicted. On account of his extreme youth his liberty was offered him providing he would be a drummer boy in the rebel ranks.

His answer was characteristic of the boy: "No! I would rather be shot than be a rebel."

So sentence was passed and he was ordered to be shot on the morrow at sunset. Just before sundown the next day he was marched out and placed in position preparatory to the last act in the tragedy. The little fellow said: "Give me a drum and I'll play a tattoo while you shoot me."

He was blindfolded, and as his last look as he supposed, of earth passed out of view, he noticed a cloud of dust in the distance. Soon a shout of Federal cavalry was sounded, the rattle of musketry and shouting of men, a friendly hand loosed the bandage from his eyes, his hands were liberated and he was free among Union cavalry going back to camp.

### SURGERY UP TO DATE.

Under this heading the *British Medical Journal*, London, publishes a short note reflecting with some sarcasm on the eagerness of some modern surgeons, especially of the younger generation, to operate with the knife whenever they see an opportunity. It says:

"Modern surgery is heroic enough to please the grim prophet of hero worship. It seems to have taken Danton's motto, *De l'audace, de l'audace, et encore de l'audace* (audacity, audacity, and still again audacity,) for its own. Almost every week one hears of some surgical Alexander cutting his way to fresh conquests. It is not unnatural, therefore, that nearly every ambitious surgeon should see in the knife his *In hoc signo vinces*. In the hands of a skillful operator the knife doubtless can work greater wonders than the fabled wand of the magician, but it should be reserved for difficulties worthy of so noble a weapon. As Falstaff says of the English nation, it may be said that it was always yet the trick of our profession, if they have a good thing, to make it too common. We cannot help thinking that the knife is made just a trifle too common.

"This is quite in the spirit of 'advanced' surgery, which, in the words of one of its chief professors, thinks no more of opening a patient's abdomen than a man does of putting his hand into his pocket. Is the day coming when a cold in the nose will be dealt with by Rouge's operation, and bronchitis treated 'on surgical principles' after preliminary opening of the windpipe?"

John H. Croft, colored, of Helena, Mont., pleaded guilty in the United States court to the charge of returning to the Crow Indian reservation after being off, and was fined \$1,000. Being unable to pay the fine he went to jail for thirty days, when he will be released on making an affidavit that he hasn't that much money.