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Published every day, except Sunday, at 4 p. m. Subscription price, in advance, $10.00 per year, $5.00 per month, 10 cents per week, payable or delivered by carrier.

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The Astor Fortune.

It is believed that the estimate of $90,000,000 which is made of the share of his father's estate which John Jacob Astor received is under the mark. Even the division of the property which William B. Astor left his two sons, William Astor's share was incorporated at about $21,000,000, and while his family have lived expensively, yet they did not begin to spend his income, and although he did nothing to increase his wealth, the yearly accumulations are believed to have increased the property to some $15,000,000. Deducting from the $90,000,000 given to his daughters, or $5,000,000 apiece, and the charge on the estate of $107,000 a year for the bonds of his widow, it would still leave for John Jacob Astor between $60,000,000 and $70,000,000.

It is not the amount, however, which the young man receives that causes special interest. The sum is so large that a million either way is of little account. The question which interests people here is what is John Jacob Astor going to do with his property? If he becomes, as his cousin William Waldorf has, a man of keen business instinct, he will have to change remarkably. He has one trait of the Astors perhaps more strongly developed than it was in any of the others, and it is a trait which in some men would be called parsimoniousness. He is an extremely close figurer, and is of such disposition that when he secures a dollar he feels like making it a prisoner for life. Whether he launches out as a daring and conspicuous builder of real estate properties or not his fortune is certain to increase steadily, because no rich man in New York, not even Russell Sage, will figure more carefully over his expenditures, both personal and business, than John Jacob Astor will do.—New York Cor. Philadelphia Press.

If Finds Precious Metals.

Mr. Andrew Thompson has made an instrument resembling in its appearance the oil well locater, which will locate gold or silver ore. This instrument will act on these metals whether in ore deep in the earth or in the shape of coin or jewelry. Gold and silver money was placed on the floor and the instrument quickly located it. The coin was then placed high above the floor and its location was quickly and accurately determined. It was also tried on gold and silver ore with the same result. Many testimonials have been offered Mr. Thompson to disclose the secret of the little machine, but he has refused all offers, some of them very liberal ones.

He has selected a well known resident of the south side, to whom he intends before he dies to impart the secret of the unattractive looking but most potent machine. The gentleman designated to receive this important trust as yet knows nothing about the instrument except its effects. He can handle it with as much dexterity as Mr. Thompson, but possesses no knowledge of the machine other than that imparted in this article.—Pittsburg Post.

The Latest Western Gold Story.

J. A. McConville, who lives on Montana street, killed one of his chickens for dinner, and on cleaning it was surprised to find a quantity of gold nuggets in the crop and gizzard. Having about thirty more chickens on hand, he began killing and examining them. In each of them he found a profusion of nuggets, the total amount gathered from the thirty-one hens being $961.50—an average of $30.50 a head. The gold was sent to the State National bank and pronounced eighteen carat fine.

Mr. McConville immediately bought fifty more chickens and turned them out on the gold fields in the vicinity of the hencoop. As an experiment one of them was killed and $2.60 in gold taken from its inside. Well, the result of a four days' run. Mr. McConville has a virtual bonanza, and expects to be a millionaire before fall if the chickens hold out.—Butte Mining Journal.

Lightning Kindled the Fireplace Fire.

Saturday night there was a pretty big thunderstorm. An old negro named Henry Winkins lives at 801 Jefferson street. There was no one in the house while the storm was in progress. The building was struck by lightning and the whole front of the house was torn to pieces. On the opposite side of the room was an open fireplace filled with trash, before which a screen had been placed. The lightning ignited this rubbish as nicely as a match could have done, and without setting fire to anything else in the room. When Winkins's wife returned shortly afterward she found the fire burning cheerfully.—American Times-Reporter.

May Be Soap Advertisements.

L. C. G. Harris, of Berths, Lake county, Cal., writes that he has discovered upon some rocks in that section a large number of painted hieroglyphics of the most interesting character. There are many hundreds of characters, and Mr. Harris, who has studied them closely, believes that he has hit upon a clew to their meaning. In the same locality he has dug up a number of crowbars, one of which is made of shalow shell, and the characters engraved upon it are similar to those painted on the rocks.—San Francisco Chronicle.

A Curious Horse.

Mr. Yiltiko had a fine bay horse that had a mania for catching chickens, and one day her teeth, when he went out to the stable, he found the horse lying down. He cut the body open and found that the horse had actually eaten a whole chicken, and the issue had cut through the stomach, causing death.—Santa Maria (Cal.) Times.

An electric exhibit will be one of the features of the exposition to be held at Buffalo in August. A model of Niagara falls (water), showing how it is to be utilized in the transmission of power, is one of the novelties suggested.

Who Did What?

In the days when our grandmothers were girls there came occasionally into the family of a good deacon with nine children a village dressmaker. She had an absorbing interest in other people's affairs, and always looked forward with particular pleasure to the work during which she sat and listened for the deacon's girls, knowing that his house was in some sort a neutral ground, where she was likely to hear plenty of fresh news and entertaining anecdotes.

One day she arrived late for her work, and as she entered the house caught a glimpse of the six daughters already assembled in the family sitting room with their gowns and patterns, their workboxes and their new roll of Daily Sensible.

But none of them were at work, for one was telling the other a story of such absorbing interest that they sat breathless and spellbound, with hands fallen in their laps or needles suspended in the air.

The visitor was too much for the newcomer. With one sort or and one off, her unfastened gallon dropping from her shoulders, her bonnet askew and her face flushed, she stood astounded, the picture suddenly among the scandalized girls, crying at the outset:

"What? What? What is it? Who did what?"

She was answered, although crying a full answer involves the reading of the whole story, but her comprehension instantly became thoroughly a family byword.

Among the deacon's descendants to this day if one shows signs of too great inquisitiveness, it is sufficient for any other member of the family to ask, with a lift of the eyebrow:

"Who did what?"—Youth's Companion.

Taking Thackeray Seriously.

The relationship in which Thackeray has left the beginning of Newcome, Bart., is an instance of his forgetfulness about his people which, glaring as it is, has hitherto escaped comment. Thomas Newcome, the father of the family, has been "the founder" of the Newcome family. We are given to understand that he was a foundling. Up to the time of his demise there was no Newcome house. But Mr. Newcome "might have been made" one, but "he reckoned blood not lands." As he said, "It wouldn't do the Quaker connection wouldn't like it."

But Lucretia was by his second wife, Sophia Alethea Holman, are stated to have been called Holman and Brian, respectively, "after their uncle and late grandfather, whose name and rank they were destined to perpetuate." "Brian" is clearly the Newcome family name, but equally clearly the uncle and grandfather must have been Holman, the founder of the Newcome family being "himself alone." The twins at first take order as above. Then John is declared to be the elder "by a quarter of an hour." He is referred to as "Mr. Brian." All at once he becomes "Mr. Brian," and "perpetuator" a "rank" to which, for all that appears he had no right whatever.—Notes and Queries.

Gold Fillings for False Teeth.

"Funny business, this," remarked a dentist, turning from his workbench and addressing the reporter. "What? Filling false teeth. Every now and then. Then we make a set of false teeth, we are asked to fill two or three of the front ones, so that the gold when the wearer smiles will shine like a darkey's heel. This takes away the counterfeit appearance of the teeth to some extent. It's a counterfeit upon a counterfeit.

"Persons who have this kind of work done are willing to pay for it, and so they always want a good showing of gold, and are very particular as to the appearance of the work, we have to charge well for it. Sometimes I don't like to do it. When we have made the counterfeit teeth it always seems to me that the deception has gone far enough."—Indianapolis Journal.

Yankee Thrift.

The Maine man who cannot turn his hand to another source of profit when one fails him is a scarce article. An engraver and carver of old time repute, in the palmy days of Maine shipbuilding, now a resident of Kittery, finding his occupation gone as a sculptor of figureheads for vessels, is engaged in making blade and graven images for the heathen. He has a large order that will employ most of his time for over two years, from a missionary just returned from Central Asia to this country. This missionary, by the way, is evidently something of a Yankee himself.—Rensselaer Journal.

Johnson's Peculiarities.

Johnson was a colossus of the metropolis, and it was down Fleet street that he took his daily walk, which, owing to the series of tasks he made compulsory on himself, was a really serious performance. First, every post required to be touched as he passed it; next it was a point of honor to stop exactly in the middle of each paving stone, and lastly, as he approached his destination, a series of prescribed strides had to be employed in order to reach the door with one particular foot.—Hygiene.

A Novel Watch.

One of the most ingenious and inexpensive novelties of the day is a gun metal watch, keyless, and showing upon its face, through small apertures, the day, date, month and state of the moon. The watch seems able to tell the time of the moon way, and when the hour of 12 o'clock—midnight—arrives, with a slight click the day and date change in a magic, although automatic, manner.—New York Journal.

Huge English Bedsteads.

The English four poster bedstead was a large affair. There is one at one of the inns at Ware, a small market town near Hertford, which is large enough to hold a dozen people, and it is one of the curiosities of England. It is referred to in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night."

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