"Rising Era," which represents a dead alfalfa and a military Indian in melancholy contemplation of it—the two meaning, as Herndall says in commending the project, a "perpetuation in bronze of a dual departing Race." After exhibition at Chicago, it is the intention to place the group in the capitol grounds at Denver.

The Bristol (England) Chamber of Commerce has undertaken to furnish an exhibit for the Exposition that will doubtless attract a great deal of attention. In addition, to a representation of the manufactures of the place, the exhibit will show much in illustration of the lives and discoveries of John and Sebastian Cabot, upon whose early American explorations is based England's claim to its past and present possessions in this country. The Merchant Venturer's Guild has agreed to contribute Cabot relics, of which it has a large collection.

A cablegram from Rome states that the Pope assured Thomas B. Bryan, vice-president of the Exposition, to whom he gave a special audience, that he was deeply interested in the Exposition, and would contribute as far as possible to the success and eclat of the undertaking, and that he would soon issue a pontifical letter embodying his sentiments as expressed. An exhibit from the Vatican, prepared under the direction of Cardinal Rampolla, the papal secretary of state, is promised.

The main World's Fair buildings, exclusive of what will be recovered for their roofs and for their interior finishing, require 250,000 panes of glass and about 250 tons of paint. An expenditure of almost $400,000 is necessary for these items. The great manufactories building requires 50 tons of paint and 30,000 panes of glass of 20 different sizes, the average size being 27 x 44 inches. In the transportation building will be 112 circular sashes, 12 feet in diameter, each containing 57 lights; and 48 semicircular sashes, 22 feet in diameter, having 80 lights each.

In the electricity building there will be 40,000 panes of glass, or more than in any other exposition structure. This building will be especially conspicuous at night as, owing to its extensive glass surface, the brilliancy of its electrical exhibit will be strikingly visible from the outside.

The Administration Building requires only 4,500 lights of glass, yet it will present finer artistic effects in glazing than will any other structure. The climax of ornamental glazing will be seen in a great ceiling sash in the mammoth dome, 250 feet above the floor of the rotunda. This will have 150 lights of many different sizes and of beautifully contrasted colors.

Mrs. Potter Palmer, president of the board of lady managers, has sent out the following specifications for marble and granite columns, for the information of those who may desire to contribute such columns for the Woman's Building:

1. Groups: Twenty-four columns, in two groups of four and ten of eight similar shafts. Cannot use white or gray stone in these groups. Dimensions: sixteen inches in diameter, ten feet high.

2. Single columns: If none of these groups can be furnished we would like single columns with cut cap and base, made from designs supplied by us or from drawings submitted to us by the donors. These columns are not to be placed in the architecture of the building, but are to be used as standards to carry urns or electric lights. They may therefore vary in design and color.

3. Pilasters: Pilasters to groups of two may be used. Dimensions: ten feet high, sixteen inches wide, five inches thick.

These columns need not be monoliths, but may be made in two or three pieces. If any of these groups are offered we would like to see a sample of the stone, and if we can use it we will send working drawings for the shaft. Freight charges to be defrayed by the donors.

The contractors who are putting up the big steel trusses for the roof of the Manufactures Building are getting ready for the biggest "barn raising" in history. There are twenty-nine main trusses, with a span of 350 feet and a height of 211 feet. They are fourteen feet at the floor and ten at the apex. These trusses with the eight smaller gable trusses weigh 10,800,000 pounds. The main trusses weigh about 350,000 pounds each, and they are to be raised in position from the floor. To handle these great iron structures a "traveler" is being constructed on the floor of the building 50 by 200 feet and 120 feet high. On top of this "traveler" will be raised a central tower 155 feet high, so that the total height of this great lifting arrangement is 250 feet. It will weigh 720,000 pounds, and over half a million feet of lumber will be used in its construction. The floor of the building will not, of course, bear this great weight and the "traveler" will move on a tracksepecially prepared for it. As much as is necessary of the floor will be torn up and three rows of piles will be driven to support the "traveler." When the work of raising the trusses is finished, this piling will be sawed off and the floor relaid. Another big "traveler" is being rigged on the floor of Machinery Hall to erect the iron work in that structure—a task scarcely less difficult.

The Mexican Colonies.

Editor Deseret News:

The enclosed document was handed to me by Mr. Flores, our custom house broker, with the request that I would send it to the DESERET NEWS for publication for the benefit of our people. The body of the document has been translated and, I think, sufficiently explains itself. One seal reads:

Secretaria de Hacienda y Credito Publico—Mexico.

Section 1st, No. 1495.—Today I say to the Administrator of the Union House as follows: In answer to your communication No. 52, in which you state your inability on the part of that office to allow the visitors to Colony Diaz, Dublan, Juarez, Pehuco, to come into Mexico under bond for duties according to the petition of the custom house broker of the Colonization Company of that place, I say to you today that you can allow such visitors to come into Mexico with their wagons, horses, etc., up to the term of 30 or 60 days, under bond given to your satisfaction.

This is the reply to your petition of Dec. 15th, 1891.

By order of the Minister of the Free Secretary, J. A. CLAUSSEN.

To Mr. A. C. Fletes, Custom House Broker of the Colonization Company of the State of Chihuahua, Asunsion, State of Chihuahua.

The custom house is now at Asunsion, but will be moved on the first of March next, to Palomas, where the contemplated railway will cross the line between Dublan, New Mexico and colony Diaz.

JAMES A. LITTLE.

COLONIA DIAZ, MEXICO, Feb. 15th, 1892.

Building Regulations in Sweden.

In Sweden houses must be built of stone or brick. The stairs of every house must be of stone or iron, laid in stone walls at least one foot thick from cellar to attic. The cellar must be built of massive stones of stone laid in mortar or cement, and supporting the ground floor. This floor generally has beams of iron, with the spaces between filled in with broken brick, gravel, clay and mortar, thus making it practically fireproof. The attic floor must be of fireproof masonry, not only allied in between the beams, but the upper surface must be of brick of thin laid in mortar or cement, and form one continuous, solid floor on top of the beams.

Iron doors set in stone doorways must be used to close both attic and cellar, and these doors are kept shut and locked at night and whenever not in use. Where there are elevators the elevator shaft must be built of solid masonry, and all doors out of it must be of iron. The roof must be covered with tiles, slate or sheets of metal. There must be fireproof walls of a foot or a foot and a half in thickness on each side of the house. The height of houses is restricted to eighty-eight feet, or a little beyond the width of the street, whatever that might be. All flues must be wide and often cleaned, and the kitchen flues must be swept once a month.—New York Tribune.

He Obliged the Cabby.

A well dressed gentleman was pacing up and down at the foot of the Thirty-third street up-town station the other afternoon, waiting for a friend. The salesman who has a stand just there regarded him curiously at first, then uneasily, then finally pumped down from his perch and gruffly said:

"—W at yous want to stand 'ere an take the bread out'n a cabby's mouth fur, eh?"

The absentminded gentleman could hardly have been more astonished had he been assaulted. Before he could recover the salesman went on, half whimpering, half threatening:

"This hain't no place for a walk, nohow. I can't get no fares a long yuse keep it up. People thinks yuses come to a cab. Don't 'E bread cut'n my mouth, fee?"

The gentleman did see, and smilingly apologizing to Mr. Cabby for his existence, calmly walked over to the opposite corner, where his sidewalk rights would not conflict with the cutman's mouth.—New York Herald.

A Rare Old Book.

The second book printed in the English language was "The Game and Playe of the Chesse," which the title page says was "Pynysshed the last day of Marche, the yer of our lord god a thousande fiuere hundred and LXXII." Only twelve copies of the work are now known to exist. In 1813 an Englishman by the name of Alchorne sold his copy for a sum equal to $270 in United States currency. Fifty-six years later, in 1869, the same volume (an imperfect copy) was sold for $2,184. The British museum has refused an offer of $10,000 for their copy, which is imperfect to the extent of having seven leaves missing.—St. Louis Republic.

How Populous Is Paradise?

At the consecration of the Cardinal de Retz, which took place in the Sorbonne, a large company of bishops were seated in a semicircle under the dome. A lady, who had been invited to the ceremony, exclaimed:

"Oh, how beautiful it is to see all those bishops yonder! I feel as if I were in Paradise!"

A gentleman who was near her checked her rapture:

"In Paradise, madam! In Paradise there are not nearly so many!"—All the Year Round.

Borrowing Books.

It is strange how general is the custom of borrowing books. The possessor of books that be truly loves and has collected at expense of time and money is always expected to lend them. Why? You never think of asking a friend to let you enjoy his beautiful coat in your drawing room for two or three or four weeks. When you want these things so much that you cannot do without them you devise ways and means to get them.—New York Post.

The Coming Suitor.

Stranger—I have come, sir, to marry your daughter.

Millionaire—Eh! Wha——

Stranger—A million or two will be necessary to make us comfortable, and of course you will give it. Shall I leave my address here while I go to present myself to your daughter?

Millionaire (bewildered)—Have you credentials in your satchel?

Stranger—No, nothing but dynamite.—New York Weekly.

Defects on the Left Side.

Dr Henry Smith, the author of "Pioneer Sketches of Ohio," states a curious fact which he says he has observed for many years, viz., that in all large or animed persons the defect will be found on the left side in the proportion of 80 to 85 per cent.

An Easy Method of Suicide.

A German scientist tells us "that we should always sleep with our heads toward the north pole. The next best position is east. It is equal to committing suicide to lie with the head toward the south."

Abnormal Developments.

No horned human now exists, but a fossil specimen was found on Lord Howe's island, in the southern Pacific, which had four horns on its crown, and resembles a cross between a horned toad and a snapping turtle. Doubtless you have often heard of human beings with horns. Such appendages in their case are abnormal developments of bone.

THE TREELESS PRAIRIES.

The Annual Burning of the Grass Is Said to Be the Reason for Few Trees.

The fact that the prairies of the Mississippi valley occupying the more western plains are mainly treeless, in spite of an unusually fertile soil, a favorable geographical position and a suitable climate, has attracted much attention in America, where many theories have been advanced to account for it. Professor Lee Lesquereux has argued that the soil of the prairies, being lacustrine sediment, is unable, by reason of its acidity, to support trees.

Professor J. D. Whitney has urged that the extremely fine texture of the soil is unsuited to the growth of trees, while Professor Winchell has argued that the germs of all arborescent vegetation were destroyed at the time of the last great glacial epoch. Other theories adduced the cold of winter or the heat of summer, or insufficient rainfall, as the reason for the absence of trees, but none of these theories seems to be adequate.

I believe the main cause is the prevalence of the vast prairie fires, which for generations past have swept over the prairies almost annually, killing the trees and preventing the growth of others. The Indians originally started these fires in order to reduce the labor of hunting the buffalo, by limiting the feeding grounds; but now the fires are usually started by settlers or travelers. They take place in the autumn, as soon as the fronts have killed the grass, or in the spring, after the snow has gone.

In spite of the most stringent laws against firing the prairies, the greater part of their area gets burned over annually; for on the level prairies, when the grass is dead and dry and a high wind is blowing, a single prairie fire may (and often does) run for hundreds of miles. Professor Hind mentions one which in 1857 extended 1,000 miles in length and several hundred in width. Every settler on the prairies has to put a "fire guard" around his premises, by turning a few sods with a plow, as a protection against the fires.

In dry districts, where the grass is short, this simple precaution is sufficient; but in most regions, where the grass grows long, a wide river will not stay a fire, and many travelers have given startling narratives of their adventures on such occasions. The only escape in such cases is to start another fire in advance, and to take refuge on the ground thus burned. The spectacle presented to such extensive fires, especially at night, is appallingly grand.

To the annual burnings of the grass I attribute the excessively fine, black, soft like texture of the prairie soil and its extraordinary fertility. I exhibit a specimen of soil I obtained on the prairie in Manitoba several years ago. In that district at least the fires are accepted as the cause of the remarkable nature of the soil.—Milton Carnty in Scottish Geographical Magazine.

Stockings Eighteen Hundred Years Old.

How many readers are familiar with the history and origin of the most common articles they daily use? We eat, drink, wear, without thinking whence or wherefore. Stockings were known among the Romans more than eighteen hundred years ago, as is proven by paintings found in the ruins of Pompeii. They were then considered more ornamental than useful. In the colder climate of northern Europe they became a necessity, and the manufacture of them became a considerable employment in the Twelfth century, when they were fashioned chiefly of cloth. In the reign of Edward II they assumed a resemblance to those now worn. At the courts of Spain and Italy they were fashioned of silk and were made enormously large.—Housekeeper.

A Sharp Threat.

An anecdote is related of a certain Methodist parson who was loudly in voighing, before a ministerial assembly, against schools of theology, and finished by thanking God that he had never rubbed his back up against one. "Do I understand the brother to say that his thanks God for his ignorance?" asked the bishop. "Well, yes, if you want to put it that way," he replied. "Then all I have to add," said the bishop unctuously, "is, that the brother has a great deal to be thankful for."—San Francisco Argonaut.

How Old She Was.

The attorney in the case was very spry and he was not making it any pleasanter for the witnesses than he could help.

"How old are you?" he asked of a sad-eyed woman.

"I'm old enough," she replied with exceeding promptness. "to know that it is miserable bad manners for a man to ask a lady how old she is."

The court let the answer stand.—Detroit Free Press.

A Different Relation.

Mother—You should not encourage that young man.

Daughter—Why not, mother?

"He is so ugly to his sister."

"Oh, but I'm not going to be a sister to this one!"—Good News.

The Test.

Mamma—My darling, don't you think you've eaten enough?

Maudie—Me don't know. Me ain't got a survey bad intemsh cache yet.—Harper's Bazar.

To open an umbrella in a house is said to bring bad luck; so, too, does the presentation of a pair of scissors, unless a crooked pin is also included in the gift.

Electricity has been used in Sweden as a substitute for dynamite to blast rock. An strong current is turned into the rock and the intense heat causes it to crack.

Justus von Liebig,

The great chemist, after years of scientific investigation and research, invented the now world-famed

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