

ica, Mass. It is but eight and a half miles in length. However, this is an astonishing distance when we consider that the gauge is but ten inches. In the short distance traversed by this pigmy it crosses eleven streams, with bridges from five to thirty feet in height.

The rails weigh but twenty pounds to the yard—about the size of those used in the mines of Missouri and Illinois. The cars and engines are constructed so as to be very near the ground, insuring great safety. The cars are provided with simple seats on each side of the aisle. The car itself weighs but four tons, the weight of an ordinary car being from twenty to twenty-six tons.

The engine without the tender weighs seven tons and runs with two passenger or three freight cars at the rate of twenty miles an hour. The road cost about \$4,500 per mile. There is a smaller railroad than this in the United States—the one in Bucks County, Pa., but it is only kept as an expensive toy by a rich farmer who has made a fortune in oil.

Mormons in Norway.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16.—Gerbard Gade, United States consul at Christiana, Norway, has sent the following dispatch to the State Department. It says: At the semi-annual conference lately held in this city by Mormon residents, it was reported that the aggregate number of Mormons in Norway is 740, 120 of whom belong to their clergy. Of the latter, 12 are leaders residing in Utah, but working here as missionaries for a short time. During the past four months 36 were baptized; 66, including children, emigrated to Utah. Last year seventy emigrated, but the Mormons emigrating this year were become more numerous, as a larger emigration will take place next month. The passage money for the Norwegians is already settled. In Utah, in most cases, they are powerful in inducing their relatives here to follow them to America. In this country the Mormons have nine stations, viz: In Christiana where they count 363 members; in Deamin, Province of Heremarken; in Turikstad, Fredriksholm, Arnidal, Bergen, Drousheim and Tramsø. Their first station at Brevik was established in 1852. Since that time 5000 Norwegians have emigrated.

Looking for Deserters.

Efforts are being made to capture deserters from the army of Uncle Sam, and to punish them severely in the hope thereby of reducing the number of desertions. It is said that there were so many desertions from the army that the Secretary of War contemplated raising the reward to \$30 for the apprehension of a deserter to \$100. Local detectives are all the time on the lookout for deserters.

"Most of the recruits find the life of a soldier entirely different from what they pictured it to be," said Detective J. M. Fuller, "and after three or four weeks spent in idleness become deserters. Our lists show

that nearly five hundred men have deserted during the summer. I believe that nearly all of these men came to this city. I am informed by army officers that there is a set of men who follow up enlisting in the army and then deserting, as a business. It is certain that some of those whom I have captured have admitted that they have enlisted twice and three times. The purpose was to defraud the government out of bounty money and their clothing.

"As a general thing it is easier to learn that a man is a deserter than it is to prove it. The information in possession of the government of an enlisted person is meager indeed. The color of his hair and eyes and any birth-marks he may have are recorded. Some of the men do not recollect themselves the name under which they enlist; so that the name sometimes is worse than useless."—*New York Sun*.

An Anxious Moment.

A number of boys just about the age when boys feel the most mischievous got a piece of gas pipe, filled it with sand, plugged it at the ends, leaving room at the end for a piece of string to hang out. After this was done the gas pipe presented a very formidable appearance, and that night the boys placed it at the door of a resident in their neighborhood. All in the house had gone to bed, and it was left undisturbed till morning. The lord of the house was the first to discover it, and after he recovered from the shock it caused him he began to cautiously examine it. After awhile he went back in the yard, first warning his wife and daughter not to go near the "bomb." Presently he returned carrying the clothes line, on one end of which he had made a slip noose. He advanced toward the cause of all the trouble and carefully slipped the noose over it and drew it taut.

Then telling his wife and daughter to go down to the corner, he retreated to the back yard, and climbing over the fence he shut his eyes and gave the rope a sudden jerk. This was all the young scapegraces, who were watching him from a distance were able to stand, and when the poor man, who had suffered an awful strain on his nerves, pulled himself up till his nose rested on the top of the fence that he might see the result of his desperate effort, an explosion of laughter far louder than he had expected from the bomb greeted him, and—there isn't a boy in the neighborhood who will go by that house now.—*Buffalo Express*.

Lamp-Chimneys and Sandstone.

A man of advanced years projected himself into the *News* editorial rooms. In his right hand was a small irregularly shaped slab of sandstone, of the same quality as that being used on the bank building across the street. It was not a matter of certainty whether or not he was about to exclaim: "Who writ them article about me?" and, without pausing for a reply, let the rugged slab descend with telling force upon the cranium of the city reporter. This suspicion was

soon dispelled by the visitor—who had reached the ripe age of 76 years—stating that he had a grievance, but not against the *News*. It was directed toward a party by the name of Harris, the bilk who, as announced in this journal a few days ago, had been defrauding the people in the settlements of this county by selling pieces of sandstone similar to that held in the hand of our caller, under pretense that they are an infallible preventive against the breaking of lamp chimneys. This Harris had hired the old gentleman's horse and had gone off without paying him, the amount due being thirty dollars. He had also induced the man who made this representation to act as his agent in selling the anti-chimney-breaking-sandstone. "But," said the venerable man, raising his index finger, "I'm through with it. I'm a veteran of the Mexican war, but my pension is not large enough for a living. I want to make a living, but I want to make it straight or not at all." With this remark the aged man and his rock retired.

Brigandage in Macedonia.

The causes and character of Macedonian brigandage are complicated by a possible political element; but it is no easy matter to learn the true state of the question. Turks and philo-Turks assert positively that it is supported by secret societies in Bulgaria and Greece, with a view of discrediting the Ottoman government in the eyes of the powers; but in spite of the preponderance of Greeks in the brigand bands one is loth to believe in the complicity of the Greek nation, even through a secret society. In any case the authorities are absolutely innocent of such foul play, and do what they can in the absence of an extradition treaty. It would be well, nevertheless, to be more careful, and not to allow notorious ruffians to harbor in Thessaly, as was asserted to be the case not long ago, for no diplomatic jealousies ought to give security to a blood-stained monster like the famous Nicko, who was said to have lived for some time at Larissa.

The taking of Col. Synge was the least of this brute's misdeeds, the atrocious character of which shocked even his own villainous profession. Here is one which can be absolutely certified. Some years ago he took two little children, for whom he demanded four and three hundred liras respectively. The larger sum was paid, and, like a strict man of business, he gave up the child; in the second case he had to do with poor parents, to whom the sum demanded was an impossibility. Fifty liras were sent up; and sent back again. The wretched parents sold all they had, raised a subscription, and got together another hundred. Nicko sent this back as before, with the brief message that if he was not satisfied in three days the child would not be living. He kept his word; the parents received the body in four quarters, and Nicko told his own horrified ruffians that business was business in this as in everything else.—*Macmillan's Magazine*.