

## FROM THE FOUR WINDS.

The Conemaugh (Pa.) school board balloted 381 times for a teacher, but in vain.

Sneak-thieves in the west employ the fishing-rod and hook a great deal. No bait is needed, and the open transom is very handy.

Mr. Elijah Youngblood, of Bailey, Ga., has killed 996 deer. He is one of Coffee county's most successful farmers.

A dog bitten by a rattlesnake in Nebraska, instead of dying, developed hydrophobia, and bit fourteen head of cattle, all of which died.

A Battle Creek dog was tied in the electrical bath room at the sanitarium. The next morning he was hanging dead from the window.

Sixteen brothers named Brandon were in the Union army from Mounts-ville, W. Va. This beats "King Robert of Scotland, and his nine sons, who bore arms."

The authorities at Washington have issued an order forbidding the use of U. S. coins for monograms, bangles, etc. The use of small checks resembling coins is also forbidden.

A St. Johns, Mich., lady wears a live sparrow on her bustle when she promenades the street, and receives no end of critical attention because the people think she doesn't know it's there.

Another big raft of 4,000,000 feet of logs is being towed to Bay city, Mich., from Lake Superior. It is claimed to be cheaper to raft the logs down than to move them to the northern woods.

Several mysterious excavations in Georgia, have led the people to believe that some one has been digging up buried treasure, and scores of people are now rooting up their potato patches in search of pelf.

A poplar tree recently cut down in Washington county, Pa., measured three feet three inches at the butt, and logs were cut out from it 103 feet from the stump. The tree made 1,728 feet of lumber.

When Jefferson Davis was about 14 years old, he and his cousin, Joseph L. Davis, were shooting with crossbows at a mark on a pine stump. One of the bolts fired by young Jefferson, flew back and struck him squarely in the eye, putting it completely out.

As near as can be estimated one-third of the fires in this country are due to carelessness, and another third to carelessness. It is estimated that the careless man is responsible for the destruction of say, \$25,000,000 worth of property annually.

A handsome Niles (Mich.) young lady was boat-riding on the river a few days ago when a fine black bass leaped into the boat. With the reflection that there are just as good fish in the sea as ever were caught the girl went straightway home and ate this, her latest admirer.

A queer case of popular uprising occurred recently in Wilkesbarre, Pa. The citizens had the mayor, nineteen aldermen and the street commissioner arrested for failing to keep the streets decently clean. They were all bound over in the sum of \$300 bonds for their appearance at court.

That exhausted worker, President Cleveland, lunches at 2 o'clock every afternoon. From the lunch table he goes back to his office and remains until 5 o'clock, working literally with his sleeves rolled up, and disposing of the business which has accumulated during the morning.

A colored man who drove from his home into Springfield, O., the other night, a distance of six miles, found on arriving at the city, a half dozen chickens roosting on the axles of the wagon. They had gone to bed before he started and stayed there during the trip.

A Langsburg (Mich.) man has a tame cricket which sings when called upon to do so. It sings in a rasping, saw-filing tenor, and in a minor key, but gets there just the same. The little insect furnishes no end of amusement by its evident intelligence and its willingness to display it.

The ancient Roman coffin, according to Pliny, was generally of stone. In some cases it was of a peculiar kind of stone, which was claimed to have the faculty of destroying the entire body, with the exception of the teeth, in forty days. Hence the name "sarcophagus," literally meaning flesh-eater. The stone is now supposed to have been a species of limestone.

Two monstrous sea lions were caught in a salmon net belonging to R. S. Van Tuij, near Ilwaco, W. T., a few days ago. The largest was eleven feet nine inches long, three feet across the widest part, forty-four in. in circumference at the head, and weighed between 1,800 and 2,000 pounds. The smallest of the pair was nine feet long, and would have been considered very large but for the enormous dimensions of his mate.

Miss Lizzie Lammie, teacher of the public school in district No. 7, Sun View, near Colorado Springs, Col., discovered the ugly head of a bull snake just raised above the sill of the schoolhouse door. She tried to frighten it back, but it seemed bent on entering the house. Several of the school boys went to their teacher's assistance, but could not turn the reptile from its course, and finally beat it to death with clubs inside the building. The snake was fully four feet in length.

## THE TRAITOR OF LIBBY PRISON.

HE CAME NEAR BEING HANGED BY HIS FELLOW PRISONERS TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO.

Twenty-four years ago one of the most remarkable trials in all history took place in this city. It was held in Libby prison. Under the leadership of Col. Straut, who is now a bookseller in a little Indiana town, a plot was formed among the Union prisoners in Libby prison to effect a general escape. The plot not only involved the liberation of the mass of prisoners, but the capture of the guard and a battery at the prison and the release of Union prisoners at Belle Isle, across the James river. The burning of Richmond and the capture of the Confederate cabinet was also a part of the plan. Nine officers were in the undertaking, and it promised to be a success.

The day before the start was to be made one of the officers betrayed the plot. A court martial was at once held, and he was found guilty. As the vote was being taken on the question of guilt, Straut was seen twisting a rope out of pieces of calico. When the verdict was announced he said: "There can be but one sentence, gentlemen, and I am ready to execute it." He advanced with the rope. The prisoner turned pale. At this a cavalry officer by the name of Louis Thompson stepped in front of the prisoner and said: "This court is not a legal one, and you dare not hang this man." Straut insisted that the culprit be hanged. "He has had every chance for his life, and the verdict is a just one. He shall be hanged down this hatch-way." Other men joined Thompson, and the more moderate view prevailed. "Preserve the record of this court," said he, "and when we get out take it to Secretary Stanton, and if this man has done wrong, we all know the old man will punish him." The next day the traitor was removed from the prison. The record was kept, and when Straut escaped, a few months later, he took it with him. In due time it was placed in Stanton's hands, and when the betrayer was exchanged, the war secretary had him dismissed from the army. Andy Johnson restored him, and he is still in the service. Those who know the affair will not reveal his name. Thompson was killed with Custer. Straut and an officer named Hamilton, now out on the frontier, are the only ones living of the nine officers, except the man who betrayed them and who came so near being hanged that an old calico bed quilt.—Richmond Special.

## An Englishwoman's Joke.

One of the society papers prints an elaborate story concerning the untimely adventures of an alleged Chicago pork-packer in her efforts to enter the inner set at Marlborough House. As the story goes, this ambitious woman was very rich and had an endless amount of diamonds and pocket money. It is said that she began operations by making direct overtures to a titled young matron, prominent at the Marlborough House entertainments and standing high on the list of divinites of the new club. This society matron was known in the story as Lady B. Lady B. received endless invitations to dinner from Mrs. Chicago, but all of these invitations were declined. After a time Lady B. made a wager with a very high personage—understood to be the Prince of Wales—that she would put an end to the invitations and at the same time rid herself of the importunities of Mrs. Chicago. The next invitation Mrs. Chicago sent to Lady B. was accepted. On the day before the dinner, Mrs. Chicago's cook left her, but a new cook applied for the place, and as she was recommended by an intimate friend of Lady B's, was accepted. The day of the dinner came, but with it there did not come the honored guest. After waiting for over half an hour the mortified hostess sat down to a delicious dinner with her expectant and disappointed friends. At the close of the dinner there came the startling news that the cook had disappeared and had left upon the dressing room table a note which read as follows:

"Lady B. presents her compliments to Mrs. Chicago, and hopes the dinner gave satisfaction."

It was then discovered that it had been part of the wager and joke of Lady B. to play the part of the cook for Mrs. Chicago, and to display the culinary education received by her at the South Kensington School of Cookery. This is regarded as a very clever joke, but it would appear from the story that vulgarity was not all on the side of the self-seeking Mrs. Chicago.—New York World.

Port Huron is being flooded with counterfeit \$5 and \$3 Canadian bills.

The Royal Meteorological society is desirous of obtaining photographs of lightning, as it is believed that a great deal of research on this subject can only be pursued by means of the camera. If a rapid dry plate and an ordinary rapid doublet with full aperture be left uncovered at night during a thunderstorm for a short time flashes of light will, after development, be found in some cases to have impressed themselves upon the plate. The only difficulty is the uncertainty whether any particular flash will happen to have been in the field of view.

## RAPID BALLOONING.

AN AERONAUT WHO EXPECTS TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC IN TWO DAYS.

Lieutenant Mallet, of the French Balloon Society, says that within the next twelve months the Atlantic ocean will be crossed by French balloonists. Mr. Mallet is quite a young man, not more than 26 or 28 years of age, a capable aeronaut and thorough enthusiast in all matters connected with the construction of balloons. It was he who designed the Horia, on which Captain Jovis, Guy de Maupassant and a party of journalists and himself went down from Paris to Hiest, a little Belgian town, last week. He received the Press correspondent in his laboratory yesterday.

"We expect," he said, "to leave Paris for New York about the end of September. Our balloon—La France—is being constructed under our supervision, and the bag in which the gas is stored will be varnished with a preparation patented by Captain Jovis; this varnish renders the material with which the bag is made, almost impermeable, thus preventing the escape of the gas. We lost but very little gas during the trip across France last week."

"But what will you do about provisions? Your balloon will need to have an enormous carrying capacity to meet the requirements of an ocean voyage."

"We shall not want much in the way of food,"

"And I suppose what you do take can be regarded as ballast," I added, under the impression that the passage would be a long one, and that possibly the adventurers would be tacking about over the Atlantic for weeks, with the likelihood of either finding themselves back on the American coast at the end of that time or else compelled to drop down into the sea and wait for a passing ship to pick them up.

"No, we are not likely to require a great stock of food," replied Mr. Mallet. "We expect to make the passage in thirty-five or fifty hours at the outside, which will be at the rate of seventy miles an hour. During the winter frequent atmospheric disturbances pass from America to the north of Europe; we propose to launch in one of these tempests and hope in thirty-five hours to be on the coasts of Europe. We shall take a couple of collapsible boats with us."

"The voyage will be effected in a balloon twenty-seven yards in diameter, and with a cubic capacity of about 8477 square yards. The storage bag will be constructed with three thicknesses of material. As to the fittings of the car, I shall profit by my Mediterranean experiences, and I don't think there will leave much to be desired."

"And you expect to leave New York in October, I believe?"

"It is impossible to say. We may have to wait till December or even January for an atmospheric disturbance which may be expected to cross the Atlantic and pass along our coast. I don't know that I can tell you any more now that will be of interest to you."—Paris Cor. Philadelphia Press.

## Buzz Saws.

Look often makes us over-confident. The flirt sometimes falls in love herself.

The arm of the law seems often out of joint.

The hen that doesn't lay eats the most corn.

The tramp often picks out the best swimmer.

The truest tale isn't always the most believed.

The insolvent bank often has the finest building.

You can't judge a man by his own recommendation.

To shake hands with an enemy won't atone for a wrong.

A table with three legs is often as steady as one with four.

The man with the longest sword often gets the worst of it.

The fish that gets away always looks as big as the sea serpent.

Good credit in business is often better than a fat bank account.

The man who drinks the most hasn't always the reddest nose.

Every lane has a turn, but many of us get tired before we reach it.

When we haven't a penny we want taffy; when we have the penny we want enough to buy a house and when we have enough to buy a house we want the carth.—Judge.

DISEASES OF LOWER ANIMALS.—The "flower animals," as we are pleased to call them, have a way of revenging themselves for some of the injuries they receive from the higher animal, man. They contract diseases in a mild form and communicate them as virulent epidemics to their masters. The cow has a slight attack of scarlatina—so slight that it hardly causes her inconvenience—and a deadly infection breaks out among those who drink of her milk. From a report which has just been compiled by Dr. George Turner for the local government board, it appears that diphtheria may be one of the diseases which we catch from animals. Pigeons suffer from croup, horses and swine from "strangles," lambs from sore throat; all of which affections, Dr. Turner thinks, may develop into diphtheria in human beings. The worst offender is the domestic cat, which is very liable to suffer from a cold in the head and chest and to pass it on in a much worse form to children.—St. James's Gazette.

## Painted Floors.

Another European idea is rapidly finding favor on this side of the Atlantic. Not only is it noticeable in the homes of the rich, but in the homes of the middle classes, and even among the very poor. The practice referred to is that of painting rather than carpeting floors. The system has many advantages. From a sanitary standpoint it is to be commended, if for no other reason. Dirt and poison cannot accumulate on well oiled or highly polished wood floors. The comfort of those living in the house demands that the floors shall be regularly swept and mopped; carpets, on the other hand, merely sift the dust and dirt and hide it. In many new apartments and private houses now going up the contract calls for hard floors oiled with boiled linseed oil. By this means the floors are much more easily cleaned, and as the oil becomes oxidized by contact with the air during its incorporation with the wood, a hard finish is secured. For sleeping apartments nothing is more desirable than a clean wood floor. For deadening sound, when necessary, rugs are used.—New York Mail and Express.

## Tubes Made from Steel Rods.

At a recent meeting of the Physical Society, Berlin, the president, Prof. Du Bois-Reymond, gave an account of a communication which had been made by Siemens at the last meeting of the Akademie der Wissenschaft. A steel tube 10 cm. long, with perfectly smooth external and internal surfaces and extremely uniform bore, whose walls are apparently of perfectly equal thickness at all points, was prepared by the following method, patented by Mannermann in Bismarck. Two rollers, slightly conical toward their lower ends, are made to rotate in the same direction near each other; a red-hot cylinder of steel is then brought between these cylinders and is at once seized by the rotating cones and is driven upward. But the mass of steel does not emerge at the top as a solid, but in the form of the hollow steel tube which Siemens laid before the meeting. Prof. Neesen gave the following explanation of this striking result: "Owing to the properties of the glowing steel, the rotating rollers seize upon only the outer layer of the steel cylinder and force this upward, while at the same time the central parts of the cylinder remain behind. The result is thus exactly the same as is observed in the process of making glass tubes out of glass rods."

## White Africans.

The statement contained in Rider Haggard's new novel, "Allan Quartermain," concerning the existence of white races in the interior of Africa, has received a most remarkable confirmation from the man who above all others is qualified to speak on the subject, says the New York World. Zebhr Pasha, the grand slave-king of central Africa, whom the German traveler, Dr. Schweinfurth, describes in 1871 as living in a place "where visitors were conducted through halls of state by richly-dressed attentive slaves, and where chained lions guarded the doors, and soldiers in mail armor waited on his will," is now a captive in the British fortress of Gibraltar, whither he was deported from Egypt some years ago in consequence of his suspected complicity in the Sudan rebellion. Talking the other day to a correspondent about the slavo countries on the White Nile, which are entirely savage, he remarked: "At Sakara and Benghish, in the very heart of the slave country, there are tribes as white as Europeans, with long silky hair. The beards of the old men sometimes reach down to their feet." Zebhr, in describing others of the black tribes, asserts that cannibalism still prevails, and that many of them eat none but human flesh. "Men and women are sold in the markets by the pound, exactly as one sells mutton and beef. The old and fat are preferred. Sometimes they are sold dead and cut up."

## Tunneling the Sierras.

It is as sure as the rising and setting of the sun that a tunnel will eventually be pushed through the Sierra Nevada Mountains on the line of the Central Pacific. A tunnel would do away with the present steep grades and with the great cost of keeping up the miles on miles of snow sheds. The deep snows that fall on the tops of the mountains would then have no terrors for railroad men. They and the avalanches would be left far above. It would by no means be so great a work in the tunneling line as some that have already been accomplished. The water that would be drained into California and Nevada, (for the grade of the tunnel should be slightly upward from each side, indeed, would require to be so), would be worth a big sum annually to the company, and would be available for the irrigation of immense tracts of land on both sides of the Sierras.

Such a tunnel has long been talked of, and the project of constructing it is by no means dead. In the recent investigation of railroad affairs by the United States Commissioners, L. M. Clement, Chief Engineer, gave testimony favoring the construction of the tunnel. Being asked if he had studied the subject of tunneling the Sierra Nevada Mountains in order to avoid the present steep grades and expensive

snow sheds, he said: "I have; and it would be a good thing. It should be large enough for a single track 300 feet. Then it could be used for hydraulic purposes and water could be supplied through it from Lake Tahoe to the whole State. The water could be run under the track. The tunnel would be five miles long. Its highest altitude would be 6,000 feet, or 1,000 feet below the present track. It would start from a point where the Central Pacific crosses the Coldstream, then follow the emigrant trail a short distance, penetrate the mountains, and come out in one of the branches of the American River. It would cost from a quarter of a million to a million dollars per mile."—Virginia Enterprise.

## How to Scare Snakes.

A gentleman who recently returned from the western coast of Africa, tells how natives provide against the dangers of venomous snakes, which abound in those regions. "The Africans on the coast," he said, "are far more intelligent than those in the interior. Just south of the republic of Liberia there is a large swampy region which extends for hundreds of miles into the interior and for many miles along the coast. Whenever it is deemed necessary to penetrate this vast morass, which abounds in snakes, the natives simply rub the soles of their feet with garlic and oil. The scent of the garlic is too much for the delicate stomachs of the reptiles, and they crawl away as fast as they are able. This insures almost absolute safety. The boat-constructor even hesitates to attack a man smelling of this odoriferous vegetable. Another method employed by the natives when they wish to sit to rest is to swish the air with rods. The peculiar noise of the rod seems to inspire the serpents with terror, for they hasten away out of hearing of the sound."

## Knew How It Was Done.

There was a family on the train between Birmingham and Anniston who had come out of the woods of Mississippi, and were on their way to some place in Georgia. It was their first ride on the cars, but while the wife and children were full of natural curiosity, the husband didn't propose to give his ignorance away. When the wife asked him what kept the cars on the track he looked at her with pity in his eyes and answered:

"Maria, don't you know nothin' 'tall? They put tar on 'em to make 'em stick."

She was satisfied until we switched in on a side track to let a passenger train go by, and then she asked:

"Gordon, what did they do that for?"

"'Nother train going by, Maria."

"And do we have to get off the track?"

"Yes. It's the new way. They us to have one train scramble over the other, but it scart the passengers s' that they have adopted another plan."

She looked up at the ceiling and the out on the extra track and replied:

"You orter buy some peanuts of t-boy, Gordon, and show the railroad that we appreciate the extra expense they have gone to. They must be feelin' as well as us."—Detroit Free Press.

TO BE SETTLED LATER.—"Doctor," said the sick man, "the other physicians who have been in consultation over my case seem to differ with you in the diagnosis."

"I know they do," replied the doctor, who has great confidence in himself, "but the autopsy will show who was right."

NOT PROVIDENCE.—"Well, his providence indeed!" exclaimed one, as a couple of citizens met on the corner.

"How?"

"I want to borrow twenty-five dollars."

"Providence—hnmph! It's simply just my bad luck!"

## LAND BUSINESS AT CONFERENCE.

The Conference meeting at Salt Lake City this fall will give many people an opportunity to attend to their business in the Land Office, and we would recommend the firm of S. W. Darke & Co. to our citizens if advice or assistance is needed in these matters. Sidney W. Darke and Wm. Fuller, assisted by Robert T. McEwan in the office, are long and favorably known to a large majority of the settlers of Utah Territory, extending over the past thirty years, and by their attention to business and a close study of its requirements, have secured a good practice in the Land Office and have become competent to take hold of the most intricate cases there. They are conscientious in their charges and treat their patrons as friends. Their growing business is their best recommendation. S&W 2t

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