

up some of their time, as guard had to be stood in all the settlements. We all had to do military duty. It was an amusing sight to see a cavalry company on drill; small men on big horses, big men on small horses, and some were mounted even on mules. The saddles were some Spanish, some military, some English, and some were human. The guns and pistols were an assorted lot, from a French horse to a Missouri dueling pistol. The sabers rated from a Damascus, Danish, German down to an English cutlass. The clothing was what we could get hold of. But the men were the true blue, and there was no mistake.

Our amusements then were mostly dancing. I will never forget the first dance I attended in Fillmore, in 1856. I wore a coat, and was the only young man that did. The young men were extremely anxious that I should dance every time, and the floor manager was in a hurry to fill up the floor, and would call fast dances like Lanigan's ball, and the like. It was on the twenty fourth of July, and the sweat began to pour out of me. Every one was looking at me, and I was the only one that did not seem to know what was up. All looking and laughing at me, I thinking it was because I seemed to be enjoying the dance. At last it dawned on me that it was the coat. I was but a moment in throwing it off, in the midst of the dance. The music stopped and we all had a hearty laugh. I was one of the boys ever afterwards. A peck of wheat, or a quarter of a plug of tobacco, or twenty five cents was what the fiddlers charged. Shot, powder and lead, were as good as cash, potatoes were also taken. The man that had a red overshirt with anchors worked on the front was the envied of the rest of the boys.

To describe the many costumes would take up as much room as the society column does now. The dress sleeve now would have made two baby dresses then, and the sleeves that the ladies wore besides.

You young people are blessed; the school houses are built, the country is reclaimed, and all you have to do is to avail yourselves of the opportunity before you. You live in a good climate, your parents in most cases have lived a temperate life, and now you can follow in their footsteps and make great men and women of yourselves. Above all things, abstain from drink, evil associates, gambling, smoking cigarettes, and the "swell-head." Twenty-eight out of thirty brands of cigarettes contain poison that will kill. The "swell-head" will kill you with business men, and your friends.

Honor your father and mother that your days may be long in the land, was an injunction given in the Bible. It is just as binding and as true to day as it was thousands of years ago. Do not wait until your parents are dead to honor them, and then put a few flowers on their coffins; but give them a few flowers while they still live by being kind to them each day, and heeding their counsel. Remember that you live but once, and your days are but few. Do all the good you can each day of your lives. Make yourselves and others as happy as you can, and I will promise you that life will not be a failure.

NEW YORK, April 3.—Ex-Governor Hog, of Texas, is in the city.

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

STOCKHOLM, March 10th.—[Special to the News.] It has been given out that King Oscar will undertake a journey through France some time in the spring. It is very probable, but has as yet not been decided, whether Crown Prince Gustave will accompany him or not.

According to the latest statistics, the population of Copenhagen, consists at present of 408,166 people. Stockholm has only about 260,000 inhabitants.

A Spanish admirer of Henrik Ibsen has urgently requested the great author to declare himself a candidate for the Storting, as soon as an opportunity is given him to do so. According to the *Verdens Gang*, the Spanish gentleman declares himself willing to defray all the expenses for Ibsen's election, provided that they do not exceed a sum of 80,000 crowns.

August Lindberg, the famous actor, who may truly be styled "the Richard Mansfield of Sweden," is at present giving performances of Ibsen's "Little Eyolf" in St Petersburg, assisted by a very able company.

An action for libel was commenced the other day against the newspaper *Copenhagen* by the minister of state, Baron Reedtz-Thott, an article having been published in said paper some time ago under the following heading: "Reedtz-Thott is a liar."

A Catholic church was dedicated a few days ago in Christianssand, Norway. The same day and in the same city a Catholic hospital was also dedicated with solemn ceremonies. These two events must, of course, be styled as very unique ones in Scandinavia.

Prof. Gustave Lindstrom, the famous Swedish paleontologist, has been awarded the large Murchison medal by the English Geological Society, an honor which is very seldom bestowed upon foreigners.

The health of the Swedish crown princess is reported to be much improved. The latest telegram from Rome says, that she is slowly but surely recovering from her illness, and that the Italian physicians do not believe that she is suffering from consumption. This news, however, may be regarded as a little too optimistic.

The cold winter has caused a large number of wolves to emigrate across the ice from Finland to Sweden, and the farmers north of Stockholm have been aroused because of this uncalled-for visit of the beasts of prey.

By the capsizing of two fishing smacks twelve fishermen were drowned last Saturday near Aalesund. Only one of the crew was rescued.

It has now been decided that Mr. Andrée's expedition to the north pole by means of a balloon will be undertaken early in the summer in 1896. Dr. Nils Ekholm, the prominent Swedish meteorologist, who is an honorary member of the Royal Meteorological Society of London, will accompany Mr. Andrée on his perilous trip.

Mr. Andrée's plan was some time ago sharply criticised by the English newspaper, the *Standard*. In regard to this criticism Mr. Andrée was interviewed by your correspondent the other day.

"This criticism," Mr. Andrée said, "is hardly worth any attention, as the paper published an article on the subject without knowing the details of the plan,

having heard of my intended trip only through a telegram. The *Standard* compares my plan to Commodore Cheyne's. That was fifteen years ago, and since that time the balloon technics has considerably developed. I do not believe that Cheyne used either drag-lines or a steering apparatus, which I am going to do. I am not—as the paper supposes—ignorant of the arctic conditions, as I have spent a whole year at the Spitzbergen. The *Standard's* supposition that I should go from Spitzbergen to the north pole and return the same way to Spitzbergen, against the wind, is too absurd. Who has said that I must take the same way back? And all this talk of nobody knowing the meteorological conditions of the upper air-currents at the pole! Who will have anything to do with them? At least not I, who does not intend to go higher up than two hundred or three hundred metres. Nothing but ill-health will prevent me to make the journey to the pole in 1896. I have a strong belief that the expedition will be successful and an opportunity given me to tell the world how it looks at the pole, whether there is water or ice, or a continent."

The Swedish system of gymnastics is at present being introduced in the schools in Switzerland, and several Swiss gymnastic teachers are expected here for the purpose of studying the method.

STOCKHOLM, March 17. [Special.] Ildor Kjelberg, the editor of the *Östgoeten*, a widely circulated Swedish paper, died at Linköping at the age of 54 years. Mr. Kjelberg had spent many years in the United States, principally Chicago, before he returned to Sweden, in order to start his now famous paper, the most radical in Scandinavia. While in America he also worked in the newspaper field. He revisited the United States only a few years ago, and was on both sides of the Atlantic known as an eager adopter and adherent of American ideas and interests. This paper is also partly edited "on the American plan."

The cavalry of the Swedish army is to be furnished with new and considerably plainer uniforms. Prince Carl, who is the commander-in-chief of the king's mounted body guard, stands at the head of this reform movement.

Mr. Thomas Ferguson, the minister of the United States to Sweden and Norway, arrived at Stockholm last Wednesday after having been away from his post about four months. Mr. Ferguson has spent the time partly in Paris, partly in the United States.

A large portrait of August Strindberg, the famous Swedish author, was bought by Henrik Ibsen the other day. The picture is by Christian Krogh, the Norwegian artist who had some good exhibits at the Chicago Exposition.

Little Eyolf, Ibsen's latest drama, was given at the Vasa theater in Stockholm a few days ago, but called forth very little enthusiasm.

Senor d'Audrade, the famous Portuguese opera singer, who is appearing at the Royal Opera House in Stockholm at present, has been appointed a Knight of the Order of Vasa by King Oscar.

The Norwegian steamer *Antarctic* arrived at Melbourne, Australia, last