

land, as it was then called, settling on Fall River in the present State of Massachusetts, where they dwelt four years, at which place their son Snorri was born, in the year 1008, being thus the first American of European parentage on record.

Not being able to cope with the Indians, or Skraelings as they called them, Thorfinn, with his wife and son, went back to Iceland, where he settled and became a very prominent man in that republic. A great many people sprang from that union, and at the present there are many people in Iceland that trace their lineage direct to them.

Snorri Thorfinson was the father of a large family. One of his daughters was Hallfrid, the mother of Bishop Thorlak. He was ordained to the See of Skalholt in the year 1119. Having gone to Rome, where he was well received by the clergy, and because of his great learning and wisdom he was by the pope appointed to frame an ecclesiastical law for Iceland, which he did. The law is still in force, and is called Bishop Thorlak's Ecclesiastical Law (Kristni Rjettur Thorlaks Biskups). It was accepted by the Icelandic Congress in the year 1123.

Snorri was a Scotch descendant, not on his mother's side only, but on his father's also. His father was Thordur Hestholfi, the son of Thorhild Rjupa, the daughter of Thordur Gellir, the son of Olaf Feilan, who was born in Scotland. His parents were Thorstein Red, born in Dublin, Ireland, and Thurid, born in Angelsea, in Wales. Thorstein Red's parents were either born there or on the Isle of Man.

JOHN THORGEIRSON.

### RAISED BANK CHECKS.

Alfred W. Seymour, the bank swindler, who is credited with having defrauded banks in the Northwest out of \$50,000 or more in the past couple of months, although an old criminal, is a novice at this particular branch of crime in which he is now alleged to be working. Seymour, according to the Chicago *Herald*, commenced operating against the banks about April 11th of the present year. His work has been so well done as to defy detection except by correspondence with the banks from which it appeared his draft was purchased. His plan is to visit a city and ascertain who the correspondents of the banks are in other places. He then goes to the smaller places, buys drafts, generally of the denomination of \$14, \$15 and \$18 against the banks he intends to victimize and raise them to \$1400, \$1500 and \$1800, and so successful has he been that as yet none of his drafts have been refused payment and in not one instance were the forgeries discovered until days after, when correspondence between the banks involved disclosed the forgery. The drafts were all perforated, but this was no obstacle to Seymour. He covered the perforated parts with a fine pulp and submitted it to a pressure that filled the perforation completely. He would then take a check perforator and make the raised figures, alter the writing and present the draft at the bank against which it was drawn for payment. It was only by the aid of a microscope that the work was detected.

Seymour commenced operations in Des Moines in April and victimized banks there to the extent of \$8,000. He

next called on the bankers of Atlantic and secured about \$3,000 there. Kansas City banks, four in number, were victimized for about \$10,000. Omaha bankers contributed about \$5,000 to his collection and Council Bluff banks were caught for as much more. He next went to Mitchell, S. D., and bought drafts on Sioux Falls banks that realized him \$3,600, and drafts on Sioux City banks that increased his plunder by \$7,200. Four banks were caught here and each on \$1800 drafts. Cedar Rapids banks were touched up next, and early this week Seymour turned up in Milwaukee, where he succeeded in clearing up \$5400 in two or three days. Since that time he has not been heard from.

In 1880 Seymour was a business man at Alta, in Buena Vista county, Iowa. He was elected a member of the County Board of that county, and then came his downfall. Transactions of his in connection with bills against the county were shady. He was indicted for forgery, convicted and sent to the penitentiary at Anamosa. He served his time, was released, returned to Alta to settle up his business affairs there, and until April 11th was engaged for one firm or another at Minneapolis as a bookkeeper.

### WEDDINGS AMONG THE KABYLES.

The ceremony among the Kabyles is interesting because of its comparative resemblance to the customs of the old Greeks and Romans, and even to those which still prevail in sequestered parts of France. Here it is the girl's father who exacts a wedding portion, a sum of about £8, for which the bridegroom has generally to rely upon the advances of his friends. Often, too, the young man has not a house for his bride, in which case his friends set to work and build one—no very difficult matter.

At the bridegroom's house the girl's hands are washed with liquid butter. Then they give her some fresh eggs, which she breaks on the mule's head and inside the unhappy animal's ears, thereby, as it is believed, counteracting any evil designs against her and her husband's happiness. Before entering the house she drinks milk, fresh and sour, and also water, and scatters over her shoulders a handful of barley, wheat and salt for the good of the family.

The husband then approaches her and fires a pistol over her head to signify that thenceforward he has the power of life and death over her. Not infrequently he makes the symbol even more emphatic, by firing into her head-dress and setting her aflame. This done, little remains except for the youth to lift the lady in his arms and carry her bodily into his house.—*New York Times*.

### A WHITE BABOON.

A white baboon, declared to be the only one ever heard of, has arrived in Bedford, England, from South Africa.

Two years ago, says the *New York World*, some trek Boers came upon this baboon and its mother in the Murchison range in the district of Johannesburg. After a fierce fight the mother was killed and the young male was led away in captivity. He was brought up in Africa and has just been taken to England.

He is now full grown, being between

three and four feet in height. He is pure white in color. He is a very heavy, well-grown baboon and excites attention by his ceaseless activity. He has a remarkably powerful voice, resembling the bark of a large dog, but harsher and further reaching. Rest and quiet are not possible in his neighborhood.

This baboon is possibly a member of, a white variety of the chacma family, or possibly a case of albinism, which is found occasionally in most classes of animals.

The chacma or pig-faced baboon is a native of South Africa, where he is very frequently found, and is the largest of the baboon family. He ordinarily grows to be as large as a mastiff, but is much heavier. It is the custom of his species to travel around in troops. These would be very formidable parties for men to encounter if the baboons were not in the habit of running away. When angered, however, or pressed by hunger they occasionally attack men and human dwellings. They are very noisy and playful and generally not bad-tempered. The fur is usually brown in color.

The baboon is not easily domesticated but he has been occasionally. There are records of a famous baboon who used to sit in a chair at Exeter Change in London, smoke a pipe and drink gin and water. A fondness for alcoholic stimulants is frequent in the monkey family.

### HARVESTING COMMENCED.

The weekly weather-crop bulletin of the Utah weather and crop service for the week ending Tuesday morning, July 10, has been issued as follows:

The weather of the past week was such as to greatly encourage the farmers. Hot and dry weather followed copious showers, and crops well irrigated made splendid growth. It was, in general, a good week for haying; the warmth matured grain very fast, and gave a good start to corn and potatoes.

The harvesting of bench-land fall grain has begun in early sections. In Utah county sugar beets are said to be thirty days earlier than last year. In Wayne county abundant showers have changed prospects; the ranges have much improved; some hay was caught on the ground by rain. Apples are beginning to ripen in Davis county.

#### BY COUNTIES.

Box Elder—Box Elder, Plymouth.—Harvest of dry land grain in progress. Crop light. Grain with water looks well. Haying begun; good crop.

Cache—Millville, Newton, Cache Junction—Dry land grain turning. Lucerne nearly all in; crop light in some parts, heavy in others; splendid condition.

Wasatch—Heber, Wallsburg—Highest, 94; lowest, 42. Lucerne cutting under full headway; good crop. Grain heading out fast. On lowlands pretty good; on bench land light. Tame hay heavy.

Weber—Huntsville, Harrisville, Uintah—Highest, 95; lowest, 58. Crops growing finely, except potatoes, which have not fully recovered from June frosts. Harvesting on dry farming is begun. Corn prospect quite good. Hay is being cut with a heavy yield. Grain is splendid. The showers this week will do immense good to corn and cabbage.

Morgan—Croyden—Wheat coming