

Mortality is greater among the Alaskans than among any other citizens of the United States.

The Congress of Colombia at its late session appropriated \$150,000 a year for the encouragement of foreign immigration.

There are now well-equipped canning factories in almost every State in the Union whose products of land and sea are preserved in air tight cans.

In Canada they call this country "The States." Then why, asks the New York Independent, may not the middle of a name for our country be "States-men?"

The Courier-Journal learns that Professor Wiggins lays the blame for the cold weather, the cholera and the rest of the ills with which the earth has recently been afflicted on the conjunction between Jupiter and Mars.

The latest legislative break in Missouri, recorded by the Detroit Free Press, is a bill requiring all the butterine sold in that market to be colored pink, this mark being evidence to the purchaser that he is not buying the genuine article.

Says the Minneapolis Times: Defalcation is altogether too common. A long established good name and unblemished character, a lifetime of fair dealing, all the reputation which business men would once have spent years of self-denial to obtain, begins to lose its commercial value.

The St. Louis Star-Sayings is convinced that a little learning is not so dangerous a thing after all. English insurance statistics show that fifty per cent. of the authors and statesmen, forty-two per cent. of the clergymen, thirty per cent. of the lawyers, twenty-seven per cent. of the teachers and twenty-four per cent. of the doctors reach the age of seventy.

Flying foxes are distressing the agriculturists in some parts of Australia. A local paper says that at the present rate of increase it is greatly feared they will soon become almost as great a menace as the rabbit pest.

The Chicago Herald alleges that a French syndicate is buying up all the worn out ponies on the frontier for export to Paris, the intention being to convert them into food for the people of the gay metropolis.

A mathematician, who evidently has abundant leisure, has been figuring, relates the New York News, on the size of the mortgage we should now be carrying if Columbus had pledged this country for the cost of his outfit.

The New York Advertiser says: "Beginning with Grant's second inauguration in 1873, a period of twenty years, during which six Presidents have been inaugurated, the 4th of March fell on pleasant days only twice.

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EASTER. Easter, smile o' the year! Bringer of music and flowers! Easter, whose kisses are clear With spring days' lengthened hours! What shall we say that is new? What shall we sing that is old? Sermon or sonnet or chant Gilding refined gold.

THE OLD WELL SWEEP.

BY HELEN FORREST GRAVES.

OU ain't goin' to take that well-sweep, away, Jotham!—the well sweep that was there when I was a baby! Don't do it, Jotham—don't!"

Squire Sedgick beckoned to his son to lay down the uplifted axe. Mrs. Sedgick stood in the doorway, with a fat, old-fashioned tumbler and a glass-towel in her hand.

Ellen, the daughter, paused in the act of tying up an obstreperous young honey-suckle shoot; and old Grandisr Sedgick, leaning on his staff, with his gray hairs blowing in the fresh spring wind, looking not unlike one of the ancient Druids.

"Why, father, we didn't know you'd cure," said the squire. "It's a rickety old thing, anyhow—"

"Well, so'm I a rickety old thing!" quavered the octogenarian. "But you wouldn't go at me with an axe and a mallet, would you? I used to draw water with that well sweep afore I stood as high as the curb."

"Well, well," soothingly uttered the squire, "if you've any feelin' about it, it shan't be touched! Only, sence the pipes have been laid from the spring up on East Hill,..."

"I don't know any more than you do, father," said the squire, leaning up against the porch pillar, and saying to wife in a lower tone: "What has set him off thinkin' of her?"

"Thinkin'! Ain't I always thinkin' of her?" piped up the old man. "Adam's gal, that was left to us to take care of; and Adam was always the best of the family!"

"Grandisr speaks the truth," said he. "The house ain't itself since Dora went away." And he stalked gloomily down the hill, to where his handsome four-year-old colt was tied to the fence rail, awaiting its daily exercise around the square.

"Eenie," said Squire Sedgick to his wife that afternoon, "Martin is getting restless again. He wants to go West." Mrs. Sedgick clasped her hands nervously.

called to life on the farm, when Dora went away," said the squire, dejectedly. "And it was she that reconciled him. Eunice—if we could get Dora back again! It's as my old father says—she was the luck of the house."

"It wasn't my fault, Jotham," she said. "I always liked the child, though she wasn't no more like our folks than a corn flower is like a squash blossom. But she and Ellen couldn't somehow agree. Ellen always wanted Martin to marry Miss Brownlee, and she up one day and accused Dora of settin' her cap for Martin, and Dora couldn't stand that; and when they appealed to me, I'm afraid I didn't take Dora's part quite as strong as I might have done."

"I knowed a woman's tongue was at the bottom of it all," said the squire, with some bitterness. "Poor Dora!" That night the whole Sedgick family were aroused by a light blaze in the doorway—the old-fashioned well sweep burning up. Grandisr, in his flannel dressing gown and knotted stick, his leonine head well outlined in the scarlet glow, looking more Druid-like than ever.

"You done it o' purpose," said he, feebly shaking the stick at the assembled family, who were trembling in the doorway. "You know you did. First Dora, and then the old well sweep. The only things I keered for in this world—and now they're both gone, an' I may as well lie down and die!"

"I didn't mean any harm!" hysterically sobbed poor Ellen. "I was lightin' a taper to seal a letter—Marian Brownlee always uses the new-fashioned colored wax to seal her letters—and it burned up too quick, and I flung it off of the window, but I never dreamed it would fall among the dead leaves around the old well curb and set it on fire! I didn't mean any harm!"

"Don't fret, father," said the squire. "We'll build it up ag'in—no; and Martin—just exactly like it was before." The old man shook his head.

"It won't be the same," moaned he—"it won't be the same! Nothin's the same in this world!" And he took to his bed from that day.

Poor Ellen hung down her head like a drooping lily. In neither case had she intended any actual harm, but in both instances she felt acutely responsible. Martin was making preparations to go out West. Grandisr seemed to have lost all interest in the surrounding world.

Her mother went about with swollen eyes and a pale face, and Squire Sedgick lay by the hour on the spring porch, looking as if he were a ghost.

"One violet-scented April afternoon, however, Martin came home from the city, whither he had been to purchase some absolute necessity for his travels, with a flat parcel under his arm.

"Look, mother!" he said. "It's something for grandisr. I don't know but what I've been extravagant, but I declare to goodness I couldn't help it. The minute I set eyes on it, I thought of the dear old man lyin' up stairs in his bed. It's a picture," he added, as Ellen came hurrying to his side—"an oil painting with a fine gilt frame. Exactly like our old well sweep that was burned down, with the red bars in the distance, and the sun settin' behind the woods, just as I've seen it go down times without end. You don't know how queer I felt when I saw it in the store window, and I went in and paid twenty dollars for it. I'd go without these cambric blankets and..."

"Here is Southern Ohio, and in many other parts of the country, poor hillside could be utilized for tree-growth," Israel A. Putnam says. "As a rule, few farmers who have lived in a timber country think about planting any trees except apple, peach, pear, etc. But many of our out-bearing trees on it to be grown that are fast disappearing by the woodman's axe, such as the beech, which produces a large amount of feed for hogs, sheep and poultry, and is one of the handsomest of trees on the lawn, with its dense foliage and spreading tops where not too thickly planted. Then we have the shell-bark hickories, large and small; in my boyhood days we had of the large but few trees that bore nuts, but at this time I have quite a number of young trees, the seed of which was probably planted by chipmunks, or otherwise dropped, and whenever I found one I care for it by protecting, and now we have the pleasure of gathering almost annually quantities of nuts. Then we have the black walnut, not only valuable for fruit, but as timber for manufacturing purposes; it is of quick growth and attains majestic size. I could enumerate others."—New York Tribune.

An Interesting Use of Photography. A French photographer lately invented a process by which a bit of ordinary paper—the leaf of a book, for example—can be made sensitive to light without affecting the rest of the page. Acting on this hint the French War Minister has begun to take the portraits of conscripts and recruits on the paper, which gives their height, complexion, age, etc., and the cheapness and swiftness of the operation, which is already in use in the French army, is something remarkable. It costs only one cent to get two copies of a portrait of Jacques Bonhomme—one for his individual register and the other for his muster roll, and so on—and the process that in a few hours, whole regiments can be so photographed. The soldiers file along, one by one, and each sits for three seconds in the photographic chair and the thing is done. They even mark the man's regimental number on his breast with chalk, and thus get a complete identification of him in case of desertion or death, or when a discharged soldier presents his claim for pay or a pension.—Boston Advertiser.

PALMETTO CHIPS.

News and Notes From Here, There & Everywhere in South Carolina.

Street cars will be running at Florence on May 1st. Commissioner Kirkland figures out the interest on the direct tax refund to be \$85,000.

The Columbia city council refuses to bid for the State Girls' College. The bids now stand Spartanburg \$43,000, Rock Hill \$60,000, Chester, \$55,000.

Judge Simonton dismissed the cross bill which had been filed by the Georgia Construction Company against the bondholders of the Carolina, Knoxville and Western Railroad Company.

One of the signs of increased prosperity of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Railroad, is that the bills on the United States mail have grown from \$600 last year to nearly \$6,000 this year.

Gen. Elias Earle, a native of Greenville, but more recently a resident of Florida, a veteran of the Mexican and last civil wars, died on Tuesday.

D. H. Traylor, the State dispensary commissioner, is in Columbia preparing to commence business, and, as the State expresses it, "the government barroom is to be located in the agricultural hall building."

On the 13th of May—unless executive clemency or natural death interposes—Alfred Crosby, Isaac Crosby, Isaac Yongue, Martha Yongue and Elisha Yongue, all charged guilty of the murder of Anderson McCall, together with Joe Brannon, already under sentence of death, and all colored, will be hanged at Chester.

The farmers in the Elia Jago section are complaining that they have much of the old crop of molasses over, they expect to keep a year's supply ahead.

The Italians who have been working in the South Carolina phosphate mines are returning to sunny Italy.

Governor Tillman has written to Senator Smyth authorizing the use for the phosphate exhibition at Chicago of such part of the South Carolina exhibit that is now at the Augusta Exposition.

E. L. Roché had a consultation with the phosphate men of Charleston last week in relation to the phosphate exhibit to be made at the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. Great progress is being made in collecting specimens and making other final arrangements for the proposed exhibit.

The Kershaw Manufacturing Co.'s new \$250,000 cotton factory at Camden is rapidly nearing completion, and the spindles will soon be in operation.

Walking Leaves, Silks, Etc.

Imitative forms in nature are too well known and have been written on too often to require any special notice here. Nature's law, being almost universal as far as the protection of the weak creature is concerned, it is not at all wonderful, perhaps, that she has formed insects into perfect counterparts of flowers, leaves, silks, etc.

Some of the "walking leaves," those which are natives of India, China and Japan in particular, are large grotesque looking creatures, their resemblance being strikingly like a bundle of yellow twigs joined together with small, marceated leaves.

The "walking stick," like the walking leaf, is also very deceptive, as far as looks go. The males have small, slender bodies, the legs or arms starting from it just as smaller limbs of a tree or wood start from larger ones.

The "walking thorn" of Java belongs to this curious order of insects, as do also the "devil's horse" and the mantis. The "walking thorn" looks exactly like the large compound spine of our common aspen locust tree, even in color and general contour.

A Remarkable Case. The sentiment expressed in the lines: "When we begin to live, We all begin to die," was almost literally verified in the case of Simon M. Elder, who died at Chester on the 13th of May.

Simon M. Elder, who died at Chester on the 13th of May, was a native of South Carolina, and was a member of the South Carolina phosphate mines.

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NORTH CAROLINA SQUIBS.

Newly Gleanings from Cherokee to Currituck.

New Hanover's new court house, which is said to be by far the handsomest in the State, will soon be ready for occupancy.

A lodge of Odd Fellows which was organized in Staeville more than a year ago, with a good membership, has gone out of business.

Governor Carr has offered \$200 reward for the arrest of J. M. Benson, treasurer of Harnett county, official information having been received that Benson has taken \$2,400 of the county fund and fled.

It is reported that Captain Charles Price, who is Attorney for the Richmond and Danville railroad, has succeeded in compromising nearly all the suits brought against the company on account of the Boston Bridge wreck.

A bank, an opera-house, and a railroad are three things that will probably be added to the improvements of Lumberton during the year 1893.

Mayor Fishback, of Wilmington, has instructed the chief of police to notify his officers to arrest all persons they hear using profane and vulgar language on the streets.

There are twelve North Carolina students at Harvard University, Massachusetts, and several of them "stand way up." Of these eight are graduates of the University of North Carolina.

The North Carolina committee on colonial exhibits for the Columbian Exposition has called upon all citizens in that State to lend their aid in furnishing portraits of their ancestors.

Ten students of the medical class in the Le-nard medical school of Shaw University, colored, at Raleigh, have graduated. Some of them are foreigners, one or two being from the Congo Free State, and having been sent at the direction of the King of the Belgians.

The growing wheat crop in the Valley of Virginia does not present a promising appearance.

A new town, to be named Dawson City, is being laid out on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, near Cherry Run.

A new bank has been organized at Norfolk with a \$250,000 capital. It will be called the Norfolk Bank for Saving & Trust.

VIRGINIA HAPPENINGS.

The Latest News Items in the Old Dominion.

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The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad is endeavoring in order to reach some coal pits.

Robert Stevens, a venerable citizen of Louisa county, was killed by being caught under a falling tree.

A millionaire Colorado miner and a Belgian representative of a company are on their way to Virginia with a view to investing in gold properties in Fluvanna, Goochland and Fauquier counties.

The fruit trees and strawberry patches around Norfolk are blooming on the truck farm, and the green stuff, under the warm rains, is looking very promising.

The Pennsylvania board of pardons has recommended pardons for "Abner" Buzzard, the notorious Welch Mountain outlaw, and James S. Dungan, the wrecker of the Bank of America, Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia, Admiral Gherardi's flagship, the Baltimore, the Yorktown, the Vauxus and the torpedo boat Cushing sailed from New York Friday for the naval rendezvous at Hampton Roads.

The Chattanooga Bar have sent to Governor Turney their endorsement of Judge W. K. McAlister, of Nashville, for appointment as Judge Lorton's successor on the State Supreme Bench.

General Smith Buried. FERNANDEZ, TENN.—The funeral of General Edmund Kirby Smith took place Friday morning at 12 o'clock. A special train of six cars arrived from Nashville with nearly 500 veterans and two companies of State troops.

Chicago Eats Texas Strawberries. CHICAGO, ILL.—Four hundred cases of strawberries picked ripe in Texas and shipped in a new refrigerator arrived here Wednesday in quite good condition. This shipment was an experiment, and consignees are so well satisfied that they will continue to receive small fruits from Texas throughout the season.

Fate of Six Fishermen. PROVINCETOWN, MASS.—The fishing schooner Ada K. Damon lost six men on Tuesday. They were setting trawls from dories when a snow storm shut them from view, and they were not seen again. Three dories and one dead body blew ashore between Nanset and Wellfleet.