

The people of Ventura, Cal., are going to try a novel experiment in sprinkling the streets with crude petroleum instead of water.

English sailors attempted to catch a fourteen-foot shark off Natal, South Africa, but the shark snapped their line in two, and swallowed bait, hook, and all.

There is a man in Italy who avers that he discovered in Africa a concoction of herbs which renders the human body insensible to hunger or thirst or poison, without at the same time destroying life or injuring the body in any way.

Three years after date the floating islands of pumice, thrown up and into the sea by the stupendous volcanic eruption at Krakatoa, in the Java seas, are found to have drifted along the Indian ocean in the last twelve months 670 miles in a direction west by south from where they were one year ago, or about five miles a day.

Hidden in the swamps of Livingston parish, Louisiana, is a hamlet with a population of 500 souls, whose until fifteen years ago not a word of English was spoken or understood.

England's new colonial acquisition, the Ellice Islands in the South Pacific, will prove of value principally as a naval station: There are nine islands in the group, all atolls, and some of the lagoons can be entered and a large vessel anchored; the distance between any two islands is not more than an average depth of fifty feet and two entrances deep enough for the largest ships of war.

A Chicago writer discusses the question whether the man marries the woman or the woman marries the man, and whether the marriage notice in the paper should read: "Mary Ann Jones to Samuel Smith," or "Samuel Smith to Mary Ann Jones."

Engineers pronounce the project of tapping Niagara River by means of a canal entirely practicable, and experts have declared that not elsewhere within the known world are there such natural advantages for the creation of a gigantic water-power, and that it can be delivered at Lockport to the extent of 200,000 horse power, if so much shall be wanted, at a minimum of expense.

THE WAITING ANGEL

The painter who should drop his brush because he could not seize the blush of heaven, when birds so dreamily stir and the first warm sun touches her.

The poet who should break his lyre because he could not make the wire echo the music of the sphere.

The man who will not gird his loins for that which truth or love enjoins, because he knows his work when wrought.

BY TELEPHONE

There were sharp words that morning, and not at all creditable to the young members of the family.

Feeling somewhat braced by this confession, Helly went to clear away Glenn's breakfast table. But there was a cold, heavy spot in her throat.

She was crying aloud when the telephone rang, and she started to get up, but she was so tired that she could not get up.

"Who is it?" she asked. "A penitent," was the reply. "Helly's heart gave a strong spring."

"You're another?" was the reply. "I don't mean to let them hurt me. I could have cried my eyes out, and did, almost."

"Then I owe something that I'll never pay."

"But I do not owe her an apology. She owes me an apology."

"I'm sure I've nothing to apologize for," Betty said, tossing her head. "The idea of my apologizing, when she has been saying such rude things! Come along, Glenn!"

"I'm so used to having Betty fly in and out of all hours, that I don't know how I can ever get along without it."

"I suppose I ought to eat them and be glad of the same, even if they choke me, for I didn't really mean them."

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"I wish to ask your pardon for my behavior this morning. I am to blame for your crossness. Telephone back my pardon, dear."

"You're another?" was the reply. "I don't mean to let them hurt me. I could have cried my eyes out, and did, almost."

BUDGET OF FUN.

HUMOROUS SKETCHES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

Dramatic Writings—Carrie's Explanation—The Knave—A Sentimental Poet—A Morning Journalist, Etc.

Carrie's Explanation. A young teacher in one of our primary departments spent the greater part of an afternoon in describing the appearance and habits of the mole to her class.

There! exclaimed young Spriggins, suddenly, as they were all sitting on the piazza. "I must go and get shaved."

How Birds Fly. In a paper recently read before the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Buffalo, I. Lancaster gave some insight into the means by which soaring birds keep themselves suspended motionless in mid-air.

How to Drink Water. The leading medical journal of France has published a pamphlet protesting against the use of water in its natural state, which, it sets forth, does the double damage of chilling the stomach, thus laying the foundation for gastric catarrh.

Peculiar "Canned Corn." "See that man going into the bank, there, along to the hat and two of the last week over on Dearborn street?"

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DID YOU EVER?

Did you ever wake to consciousness Of bliss? When the maiden fair was willing To bestow the pleasure thrilling, In a moment's time heaven called A kiss!

Did you ever urge a maiden To confess? When the coy, evasive glance Held the sweetest of romances—Every sigh and every quiver A caress!

Did you ever meet an obstacle So sad? When the angel sweetly heeding The existence of your pleading Supplemented—you had better Call on dad!

How Bohemian Glass is Colored. The ornamentation of the glass is done partly in connection with the exposure in the furnace and partly in the finishing shops, where the work is completed by cutting, polishing, tumbling, etching, painting and mounting in metal.

Married in Two States. A whimsical marriage took place in the Eastern part of the State last Saturday, during an excursion from Lafayette to Dayton, Ohio, over the Lake Erie and Western Railroad.

Longest Railways of the World. The Union Pacific Railroad Company controls the greatest length of line of any company in the world, to wit: 5,627 miles.

Trade Winds. W. M. Davis has recently given in the American Meteorological Journal an account of the derivation of the term "trade-wind." The original meaning of the word "trade" has been so far replaced by an acquired meaning that a popular error has arisen as to the derivation of the common word "trade-wind."

PITH AND POINT.

The tramp is a man of many ties—railroad ties, for instance. "Would you believe it? I have had that idea in my head these six months!"

Some men are so mighty penurious that they keep everything they get hold of—except the ten commandments.—Blizzard. Mamma—"Frankie, are you eating those green apples again?" Frankie—"No, mamma; I'm eating some others."

Brown—"See those two ladies over there. They seem to be enjoying themselves." Foggy—"Yes, I wonder which of their dear friends they are gossiping about."—Boston Post.

A Monster Safe. There is about to be erected in premises of the National Bank of Scotland, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, the largest steel strong-room or safe ever manufactured.

How Cloth is Tinned. A mixture of finely pulverized metallic zinc and aluminum, of about the consistency of a thick paste, is spread with a brush upon iron or cotton cloth, and by means of hot steam coagulated.

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