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THOS. J. ADAMS, PROPRIETOR

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Of the white population of America only eight per cent. are unable to read or write.

The legislative assembly of Victoria, Australasia, has passed a bill imposing a tax on the unimproved value of land.

There are in the United States at present 6,000,000 farms. About one-half the population of the Republic or over 30,000,000 people live on them, and these dwellers furnish more than seventy-four per cent. of the total value of the exports of the country.

Italy proposes to encourage the natives of Abyssinia to emigrate into the valleys of the Nile and open up the Soudan to civilization. The Italian colonists on the high lands, now that the possession of Kassala has opened new horizons, would protect and encourage the native emigration.

The new State officials of South Carolina are unusually young in years, even for the South, says the New York Advertiser. The Governor is thirty-one, the Adjutant-General twenty-five and the Attorney-General only twenty-four. Governor Evans is the youngest man ever elected to the Governorship.

In the olive shades of the Tirol that Horace loved and that Felicia Hemans sang there is now an electric generating plant operated by the water delivered from the old Roman aqueducts. The energy thus generated is transmitted to Rome over four copper cables and is used in lighting the city.

The figures of the New York Building Department show that in the last fourteen years \$325,000,000 have been spent in building flats and tenements in New York, and the St. Louis Star-Sayings estimates that at least \$50,000,000 of this amount has been wasted in needless brickwork, which only obstructs light.

In the course of a recent speech Admiral Field, a Tory member of the British House of Commons said: "There is no such thing as equality in this world and there will not be in heaven." The Liberals among his constituents have challenged the Admiral to produce his Biblical authority for the latter clause of this assertion.

The Japanese alphabet of forty-eight letters is written in four different characters, one of which is regarded as especially appropriate for men and another for women. Works of science and higher literature of an official nature are written in the Chinese characters. At present, adds the New Orleans Picayune, Japan is writing the history of the Japanese war in characters of blood.

According to the New York Sun, American cheeses used to be sent abroad by the thousand pounds twenty years ago and returned by the same steamship line properly labelled as English. It is perfectly well known that most of the popular foreign cheeses are more or less successfully counterfeited in this country, and it would be interesting to know what proportion of the large exportations of American cheeses return as foreign.

Probably few readers are aware of the fact that modern industry has already got a foothold in the Arctic regions, and that mines are worked on a large scale; and a railroad regularly operated in such high latitudes. This is the case in Sweden, where the Lulea-Gellivare Railroad, built for the purpose of carrying iron ore from the Gellivare mines to the seaport at Lulea, extend fifty miles above the Arctic circle and enjoys the distinction of being the first railroad to open up the frigid zone.

The fattening of live stock on cottonseed hulls and meal is becoming quite an important feature in Southern business affairs, announces the Manufacturers' Record. It promises to add materially to the prosperity of the South, and to enable that section not only to supply its own wants for good beef, but to ship fattened beefs north in competition with the West. The cattle can be fattened on cottonseed meal and hulls at a total cost of about ten cents a day, while it is estimated to cost at least twenty cents a day in the West and Northwest, where hay, corn and other foodstuffs are used.

It is said that the Chinese are the greatest gamblers in the world. Games of chance are the very breath of their nostrils, and they cannot live without them. It is the one pastime in a life of unceasing toil, but the evil does not assume serious phases so long as foreigners do not meddle with their games. A Chinaman may in rare instances lose his all when gaming among his countrymen, but if he does he goes contentedly back to work next day and is not, like most ruined gamblers, incapacitated for honest toil. It is when the raffra of other races are allowed to take a hand and to utilize Chinese game tables and banks for the gratification of their own purposes that widespread mischief is wrought.

STORY OF "AMERICA"

DR. SMITH TELLS HOW THE NATIONAL HYMN WAS WRITTEN.

On a Scrap of Waste Paper—First Sung on July 4, 1832, in Boston, and Since Then in All Parts of the World.

I DID not know that I had written a National Hymn till the conviction was forced on me, writes Rev. S. F. Smith in the New York World.

While I was a student in the Theological Seminary in Andover, Mass., Mr. Lowell Mason, through whose efforts the study of music was introduced into the public schools of Boston and elsewhere in this country, brought me a number of singing books, which Mr. William C. Woodbridge, who had visited Germany to inspect the school system there, had brought home with him and put into Mr. Mason's hands.

Mr. Woodbridge had been much impressed with the German method of teaching music in the schools, and I was asked to look through the books and translate such of the songs as seemed to me appropriate to our American schools.

Turning over the leaves of one of the music books, I found one song of a patriotic nature set to the tune which England claims as hers because she has so long sung it to the words "God Save the Queen," but which the Danes claim as their, and which the Germans claim as original with them, and of the real origin of which I believe no one is certain.

The music impressed me by its sim-

*My country 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing*
S. F. Smith

FAC-SIMILE OF THE FIRST TWO LINES OF "AMERICA," AS WRITTEN BY THE AUTHOR.

plidity and easy movement, and I was at once moved to write a patriotic hymn of my own, which American children could sing to this same tune, which I did on a scrap of waste paper, probably finishing it within half an hour.

That was in February, 1832. I gave the hymn to Mr. Mason with others—some translations, and others my own—and thought no more of it. The following Fourth of July I happened into Park Street Church in Boston, where Sunday-school children were enjoying a patriotic festival. It was on this children's Fourth of July celebration that "America" was first sung, the words of which I had written a few months before. Since then I have heard it sung all over the world.

Dr. Smith's Career.

Dr. Smith was eighty-six years old last October, and he is one of the last of that famous class of Harvard '29 men which included, besides the late Dr. Holmes, the Rev. James Freeman Clarke, Prof. Benjamin Pierce, Judge Curtis, Judge Bigelow and a number of others well known in Massachusetts' annals and beyond them.

The data for the following sketch of his career were furnished to the World's correspondent by Dr. Smith, and he added the preceding account of the way in which he came to write the hymn.

Dr. Smith is a native of Boston, and his family at the time of his birth lived very near the historic Old North Church, where Paul Revere ordered his friend to hang the lantern aloft. After being graduated from Harvard University, which he entered a Franklin medal pupil from the Boston Latin School, Dr. Smith studied for the ministry. His first charge was in Waterville, Me., where he presided over the Baptist parish for eight years, occupying at the same time the chair of modern languages in Colby University in that town.

From January, 1842, to July, 1854, he was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Newton Centre, Mass., being also for the first seven years of that period editor of the Christian Review, a quarterly published in Boston.

Dr. Smith then gave his time to foreign missionary work as Editorial Secretary of the Missionary Union for a period of fifteen years, during which time he also preached constantly as "stated supply," and kept up his literary work and teaching without interruption. From 1875 to 1878, he travelled in Europe, accompanied by his wife, who before her marriage was Miss Smith, a grand-daughter of Dr. Hezekiah Smith, of Haverhill, Mass., who was a chaplain in the Revolutionary Army and one of the founders of Brown University.

During the two years succeeding September, 1892, Dr. Smith again visited Europe and Asia, inspecting missionary stations of all denominations on both continents, including India, Burma, Sweden, Norway, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Turkey and Greece.

As an author, Dr. Smith has published the "Life of Joseph Grafton," "Lyric Gems" (a title given by the publisher), "Rock of Ages," "Missionary Sketches," "Rambles in Missionary Fields," "History of Newton," besides many articles for newspapers, magazines and reviews. He has edited editions of many books and translated in full an entire volume of "Conversations-Lexicon" (German) for the "Cyclopaedia Americana."

He is an enthusiastic student of foreign tongues, speaking several fluently, and has a reading knowledge of fifteen languages. Dr. Smith is a natural versifier, having begun to write poems when he was but eight years old, and he has had more or less published each year since he was twelve or thirteen years old. He has written more than a hundred hymns, including several of a stirring patri-

otic character. "The Morning Light is Breaking" among others, all of which are to be found in the Psalms.

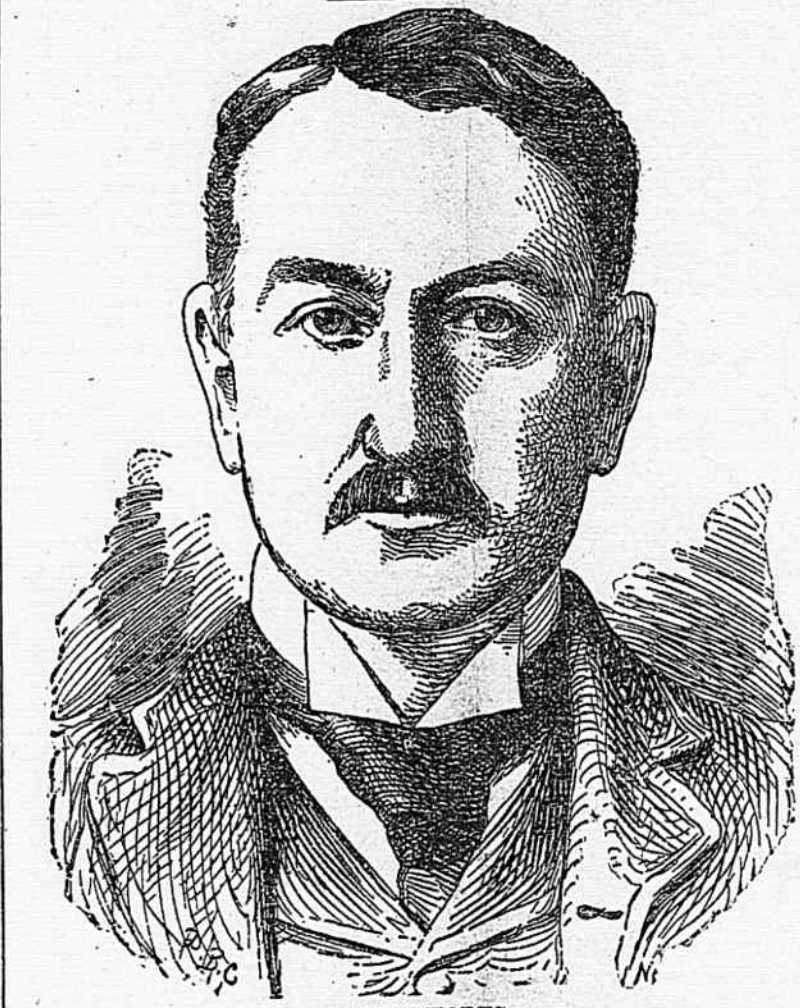
Dr. Smith still devotes himself to literary pursuits in his home in Newton Centre, a suburb of Boston, where he has lived in the house he still occupies for more than fifty-three years. It is an old-fashioned, gabled structure, low and brown, and in summer is picturesquely overgrown with climbing vines and shaded from the road by trees.

Highest Decoration in Japan.

It is interesting to note that the relations subsisting between the rulers of Germany and Japan are of a distinctly friendly kind. A few weeks ago it was announced that the Mikado had bestowed the Grand Cross of the Imperial Chrysanthemum upon the Emperor of Germany, in recognition of the military and naval instruction given to the Japanese by German officers. This order, which was established by Emperor Mutsuho, on December 27, 1887, is the highest in Japan, and consists of a single class. It is bestowed upon none but sovereigns, members of royal houses and the Presidents of Republics.

The Order of the Chrysanthemum has four emblems—the collar, the ribbon of the grand cross, the decoration itself and the star. The collar consists of four parts. The first shows a golden chrysanthemum blossom with a second blossom springing from its stem and surrounded by a green wreath, bound with a fringed band of gold. The second part of the collar consists of a device formed of golden palm branches. The third part is a rich wreath of green leaves, and the

RULER OF AN AFRICAN EMPIRE.



CECIL RHODES.

A speech was made by Cecil Rhodes—Prime Minister of Cape Colony and the enormously wealthy President of the company which owns the Kimberley diamond fields—in London to the shareholders of the British South Africa Company recently. Cecil Rhodes is a man of scanty speech; it is the aptitude of his view which commands respect. He spoke of the "very large piece of the world" possessed by the company—measuring 1200 by 500 miles. A few years ago this piece of the world was almost unknown and entirely barbarous. Now it has a

railway, 1400 miles of telegraphs, magistrates' courts from end to end, and a press. The natives are contented with a rule that is firm, and the shareholders are pleased with the prospect of a dividend that bids fair to be equally firm. The territory of the South Africa Company is managed like an estate; but it looks uncommonly like an empire, with Cecil Rhodes as its absolute ruler. During his recent visit to England he was received as if he were royalty itself, and dined with Queen Victoria by special invitation.

A Handy Sewing Basket.

In the bottom of a light, round willow basket thirteen inches in diameter by three inches deep, is fitted a circle of pasteboard smoothly covered with lining silk over a thin layer of paper. This is all the lining required. Inside, nine spools, a pin-cushion and a shirred pocket, for



thimbles are fastened all in a row. The nine spools (No. 20, 36, 50, B sewing silk and shoe thread, black; No. 20, 40, 60 and basting cotton, white) are each strung on a piece of ribbon half an inch wide by at least four inches long. Each ribbon end is brought through to the outside of the basket just below the brim. The dainty pin-cushion, two inches square, and the thimble pocket of the same material, have ribbon ties tacked with tiny bows to their upper corners. These are also passed through to the outside where by tying the eleven pairs of ribbon ends into neat bows the trimming of the basket is completed.

Arranged in this way the threads cannot become tangled, an empty spool is easily replaced and there is plenty of room left for all the other necessary furnishings of our handy sewing basket.—American Agriculturist.

An Ex-Empress Impurported by the Impugnators.

Ex-Empress Eugenie, widow of Napoleon III., paid a visit recently to Queen Victoria at Windsor. She is said to have looked with almost envy on the comparatively small number of appeals for assistance which come into



EX-EMPERESS EUGENIE.

the British ruler's hands. The enormous post-bag which reaches Farnborough, the residence of the Ex-Empress, is filled, week after week, with appeals of all sorts, mostly from France, and mostly in the name of religion.

In Switzerland a President is chosen every year from the Federal Council of seven members, elected for three years.

Our savings banks had \$1,739,000, 705 deposited with them as the surplus savings of our people.

Easter Lilies.

These exquisite flowers have become popular for winter blooming among florists, and their culture would be general among amateur cultivators if it were known that early planting is essential to success. Many persons get the bulbs in November or December, and because the plants do not come into bloom in January or February, they consider them a failure. Bear in mind that they should be started five months before you expect the plants to bloom. The bulbs start slowly, and the plants are not rapid in development, so that bulbs potted in August will not bloom till January, while those started in September will



blooming. The engraving is a fair representation of a blooming plant. As a rule the illustrations in catalogues are overdrawn.—Home Circle Magazine.

Hears With His Mouth.

A boy whose mouth is wonderful, in that it does the double service of tasting and hearing, was in San Antonio, Texas, the other day. His name is John Mihan, and his home is at Sabinal. He was born ten years ago. Both ears were closed at birth, and they have never been of service to him. But by a remarkable freak of nature his mouth has done what his ears ought to have done, and he is not incommoded in the slightest. Several local doctors examined and testified the powers of the mouth and pronounced the case a phenomenon without a parallel.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Growing Violets.

Violet growing, so important an occupation in parts of this country and even more so in Southern France, has for two or three years been much hampered by reason of a disease that attacks the plants. The French growers spray the plants with a solution of copper, and thus save many thousands of diseased ones, but the process is laborious and expensive.—New York Sun.

Effective Way of Branding Animals.

The Arizona Indians have a peculiar and effective way of branding animals. The brand is made of steel, with a knife edge. It is fixed on the head of an arrow and shot with a bow at the animal to be branded with such force that it cuts the mark in the hide.—New York World.

HANDSOME GOWNS.

RECEPTION DRESSES WORN BY NEW YORK SOCIETY WOMEN.

Beautiful Costume Named "After Lady Somerset," of W. C. T. U. Fame—A Defence of Feathers—Japanese Fancy Dress.

CONCERTS, operas and receptions seem to engross considerable attention just at present, says the New York Mail and Express. The weather has been so unkind, the frost so biting and the skies so threatening, that woman fair and fascinating has had to create indoor amusement. Receptions and operas are considered more informal and educative than dinners or dances, and so the season has been made up mostly of these functions. Special gowns are being created daily to fill the demand.

A costume artist, a novelty, by the way, in the professional world of women, Mrs. Ida M. Rex by name, is spending a great deal of time creating new gowns for receptions and the opera. The Mail and Express prints an exclusive double-column picture and description of the latest metropolitan designs. One is a "frou-frou" gown, all tulle, ribbon and silk flowers. The skirt is gored and made very full. The basque falls beneath the skirt, and is confined by a wide ribbon belt. There are no sleeves. The shoulder "frou-frou" garniture of tulle falls to the elbow. Gloves of Bernhardt style are worn.

The coiffure follows the accustomed model which Sarah Bernhardt invariably

most expensive ones come attached to each other by a chain that passes about the head at the back and is made secure by a bent gold hairpin. An elaboration of this idea is shown that jewels the chain and makes it part of the ornamentation of the coiffure. It is secured to the central prong of the back comb, this comb and the side ones constituting a set.

AROUND THE NECK.

The ribbons around the neck are finished in a variety of ways. Sometimes they have a rosette on either side or in the back. Again, they are made to wear with a flat buckle, from either side of which sticks out a frill of white lace. Sometimes they have full flat plaits at the side, which are held down by exceedingly elaborate affairs. They are made of gold, silver, rhinestones and jewels, as the case may be. Diamonds and pearls combined in an open work little wreath is a favorite design, and three of these buckles put on a band of satin or velvet make an extremely handsome finish for any gown.

Tulle and chiffon collars made in this fashion are very much the rage, purple and the new shade of blue being the most fashionable, although lately yellow has made its appearance for this purpose.

A JAPANESE FANCY DRESS.

The Japanese costume makes a very piquant fancy dress. The hair is drawn back over a frizzette and looped or curled at the back, and decorated with fancy pins, butterflies or flowers, with little fans set upright, as shown in the sketch. The underdress

LOOK OUT!!!



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TAKE SIMMONS LIVER REGULATOR ONLY

J. H. ZEILIN & CO., Philad'a, Pa.

CATCHING COLD.

The Chief Cause is a Lack of Outdoor Exercise.

The animal body is the most delicately constructed thermometer ever devised. It is entirely self-regulating, and probably never becomes entirely deranged.

In normal conditions the body conforms to the temperature of the medium in which it finds itself. The control thus exercised is purely a nervous one—an influence exercised by the nerves over the minute blood-vessels which cover the surface of the body. There are two sets of these nerves, one acting as the signal line by which the temperature is recorded in the brain, and the other serving as a medium through which that organ transmits its orders to the blood-vessels at the surface. This mechanism works in perfect harmony and unison, except under certain unfavorable conditions. Let us endeavor to discover what these conditions are.

Except in extreme cases of heat or cold, when these nerves become partially or wholly paralyzed, they do their work faithfully, so that we shall expect to find the cause of a "cold" in a disturbance of the brain or an interference with the orders which it has sent out to the surface vessels. Obviously it is only the latter condition of affairs which interests us.

Probably the chief cause of catching cold lies in this enervation resulting from the hothouse life which too many persons lead during the winter months, under the impression that they are saving their bodies from the shock which naturally comes from exposure to a cold and bracing atmosphere. But a gentle shock of this nature is precisely what is necessary to tone up the set of nerves in question, and enable them to perform their work quickly and properly.

Ginseng.

Ginseng is a root worth almost its weight in gold in China, and Secretary Morton, in his last report, recommends its cultivation in this country.

Formerly we shipped \$1,000,000 worth of ginseng to China every year, but the supply has fallen off, and Korea now furnishes nearly all of it.

The Chinese regard this plant as a cure for almost every disease. They believe that the root possesses intelligence and powers of locomotion, which enables it to run away to escape capture. They also believe that it is guarded by the tiger, the leopard, the wolf and the snake, animals appointed by the gods to protect it.

A root weighing three or four ounces sells for \$300, but the American article commands only \$2 a pound. In Corea it is cultivated under government supervision, but in this country the plant grows wild in the mountain regions. The Chinese say that the virtue of the plant is not in its material composition, but in all its mysterious power pertaining to it through being produced wholly apart from human influence under the care of a beneficent spirit.

But while the Chinese will pay any price for this root, and will consume all that can be produced, the medical men of Europe and America have never found any curative power in it. Our Indian tribes, however, agree with the Chinese and regard ginseng as a valuable medicine.

A Mammoth Turkish Cave.

They have a mammoth cave in Turkey which takes all the brag out of Kentucky. It is near Selekeh. And where is Selekeh? Well, it is near that part of the Turkish coast which is just exactly north of the island of Cyprus. One of the natives went in with a party and roamed around for five days, and when he came out he said he had tramped fully twenty-five miles until he came to a large lake with great cliffs rising up in it. Having no boat, he had to turn back. Of course he was a Turk, and perhaps we should be a little careful about accepting his idea of distance too literally; still it is probable that the exit of the cave is in Cape Lisau el Kebel, fifteen miles eastward of Selekeh, right on the sea, where the waves dash in the mouth with a rush and a roar, which has given the place the name of "the roaring hole." If one stands at the entrance of Selekeh, he can hear a dull, booming roar, which is, in all probability, the waves at Cape Lisau el Kebel rushing into the roaring hole.

MANY of us are engaged in pursuit of the same folly, but are traveling by different routes.



COSTUMES FOR RECEPTION AND CONCERT.

Feathers are not good taste for street wear, but their number is not very great. As a substitute they suggest enormous hats of dull black felt trimmed most simply with black ribbon and practically rain proof. A favorite fashion rolls the brim straightly around the head. A net of ostrich feathers in the braid of hair ornamenting the crown surmounts the costume. The other figure is a "Somerset," named after a costume much like one worn by Lady Isabel Somerset, of W. C. T. U. It is of rich velvet, jet passe-manteau and silk. The skirt is tailor made, with velvet panels at the side. The basque is princess shape. If a high neck is desired, a fichu of lace such as Lady Isabel wears can be added.

The opera coat shown has several new points. One is the absence of the large extra shoulder cape and another is the annex of the Mary Stuart collar. The garniture of the hair, to be in good taste with the costume, should be simple. A butterfly bow of black velvet ribbon is preferred to all other forms of ornamentation.

IN DEFENCE OF FEATHERS.

A crusade is starting in behalf of the curling plumes that are now so fashionable. Its devotees insist that back in front and sets a great bow a little at one side of the roll as the only trimming; indeed, it is made conspicuously lonesome in this class of hat, so that the choicest effect may be associated with severe simplicity. But those very plumes are an obstacle for the world-beavers of them, because their beauty makes their possessors long to display them at every opportunity. So the besetted hat is favored by the great majority, even for outdoor wear. One of the hand-furrows of these hats that set women in a rush for shelter at the first fall of rain or snow is pictured here. It is round, of black velvet and garnished richly with black ostrich plumes, bows and rosettes of black satin ribbon set off with and seeming-

shown, or left hanging square. The robe is of broadened silk, there are charming theatrical satens prepared for these robes, which have almost the effect of silk.

CHILDREN'S DRESSES.

One might be forgiven for the stereotyped remark that children's dresses were never so pretty as now. The styles are simple and quaint, with just enough character to them to relieve them from plainness; and, fustiness, of all things, is discouraged in such costumes. Velvet is as popular for children as for grown people, and is such a serviceable and becoming material that one may be pardoned the trifling additional cost for the excellent effect produced by this most useful and elegant of all fabrics.

JEWELLED FLOWERS.

Flower brooches are losing nothing of their old-time prestige, but the preference is now given to those which can be utilized as hair ornaments. One of the most striking of these is an orchid, whose shape is perfect, and whose petals are incrustated with diamonds and sapphires, while in the center is set a lustrous yellow topaz.

NARROW RUFFLES.

One or more narrow ruffles around a skirt may always be worn, and will never look out of place; but to make skirts up out of bands and frills, is a waste of the good fabric produced by the skillful fingers of practical artisans.

A DEFEATHERED HAT.

ly fastened by rhinestone buttons. Ten plumes are employed in all, and, as indicated, little height is added thereby. Dutch bonnets are in high favor for dress occasion. They are being made so wide at the sides, however, that the girls at the theatre not only crush against each other's sleeves, but touch hats also when they move a little from an upright position. Side combs are another fancy of the hour and are being made so rich with jewels that the

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