

NOTES AND COMMENT.

They phrase matrimonial advertisements very delicately in Maine. One recently printed in Hallowell voiced a want for a "housekeeper in a family of one."

The improvement of the potato has seemed to be the work almost exclusively of English-speaking people. The tuber has been named, specifically, the Irish potato, but the French are not disposed to allow the fact to be forgotten that one of their races brought it effectively into general use. Everywhere they are doing honor to Parmentier's memory. A Parmentier medal was recently offered at a grand exhibition, which brought out a collection from one grower of 350 varieties, probably the greatest assemblage of the potato family ever brought together at one time.

A scheme for continuous mail collection in cities will be put in operation in Washington shortly by Second Assistant Postmaster-General Neilson. A wagon specially constructed for the purpose is now being built at Hartford, Conn. It will be large enough to accommodate a carrier independent of the assistant, who will do the driving and take the mail from the street boxes. This wagon will contain several apartments for "throwing" the mail. While it will be rather large, it will be light and strong and made with a view to accommodating the work, rather than for looks, although its ornamentation will not be neglected.

The engineering work which may have considerable effect on coastwise freights is the reconstruction of the Dismal Swamp Canal, which is designed to afford a waterway between the north and south seacoasts, avoiding the dangers of Hatteras. This canal is a historic one, having been begun in 1787 and constructed in ten years, largely by slave labor, to the depth of four feet and a width of thirty-two feet. It extends from Elizabeth City, near Norfolk, Va., to the head waters of the Pasquotank River, a distance of twenty-two miles, there connecting with navigable streams which reach the ocean south of Hatteras. In its early years it paid dividends of sixty per cent, and is reckoned to be worth one hearty male slave. The present contract calls for a uniform depth of ten feet and a width of sixty feet, and the venture is backed by \$900,000 of Baltimore capital. The work is to be completed by December 31, 1897.

Statistics collated by a well known trade journal exhibit in a very striking way the parallel growth of the United States and the leading countries in Europe in trade and population. Impressed by the magnitude of our own growth, we believed for a time that it was unique. But this is no longer tenable. Although this country has grown faster than any one of the eight leading countries of Europe, nearly all show great increases both in wealth and population. Taking the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Belgium, Russia and Holland in a single group, they show an increase in population between 1880 and 1890 of over 180,000,000, of which 32,000,000 belong to the United States. This represents for us almost exactly 100 per cent. of growth, and it is the highest percentage in the group, although Russia, with a lower percentage, shows a growth of 36,000,000. Germany increased over a fourth, Austria-Hungary over a fourth, Italy a fifth, Great Britain not quite a fourth, while France remained almost stationary. The percentage increase for the entire group is 52 1/2 for population and 222 for trade in the last four decades. Our own trade increase in that time is well above the average, being from \$513,000,000 to over \$1,600,000,000, or more than 200 per cent. Russia surpassed this percentage, but still remained behind us in the total volume of trade. Germany's percentage of trade increase more than doubled that of England. It is hard to overestimate the significance of such figures. They show a growth both in population and wealth that is without precedent in history.

Laughable Use of "Again."
The little word "again" once threw a large assembly into fits of laughter. It was at a public meeting in New York. One of the speakers, Rev. Mr. E., had the misfortune, when he tried to take a seat, to miss his chair and come down at full length on the platform. The accident occasioned not a little subdued mirth. When at last it came his turn to speak, the presiding officer introduced him in these words: "The Rev. Mr. E. will again take the floor." The reverend gentleman never met with so enthusiastic a reception as greeted this announcement.

The Schools in Cuba Closed.
A Cuban correspondent sends as a "morsel of news" the fact that all the schools on the island, even those in Havana, have been indefinitely closed. The school teachers will lose not only their positions, but five months' salary. The schoolhouses, where any are left standing, will now be used for hospitals or quartering troops.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

CUBAN CHILDREN.

THE LIFE THEY LEAD ON THE WAR-RENT ISLAND.

Love of Country Instilled Into Them—Their School Education—Confined Closely to Their Homes—Their Amusements.

WHEN Columbus first landed in a Cuban harbor October 28, 1492, he named the island he had discovered Juana, in honor of John, a son of Ferdinand and Isabella. As years have rolled on and centuries have passed away, but it is interesting to observe that while Spain has gradually lost her hold on the western hemisphere, she has always kept an outstretched hand upon Cuba, her



CUBAN FAMILY AT HOME.

"dark-eyed child of the west," and claimed her as part of the household. The island was taken by an English fleet under Lord Albemarle, in 1762, but was restored to the Spaniards by the terms of the treaty of Paris in 1763. Since the early days of the present century Cuba has been under the officialdom of captains general appointed by Spain, but in more recent years many troubles arose between the native Cubans and the Spaniards, and the island has become a very unruly child, as the revolution of 1895 and the rebellion now raging on the unhappy land attest.



CHILDREN AT HOME IN CUBA.

Since the outbreak of the insurgents for freedom from Spanish rule began, something more than a year ago, Cuba and the Cubans have filled with glittering display the columns of American newspapers, and as the opposing armies proceed with the war, surmise as to the future of the island becomes a perplexity. Whatever may be the result of the insurrection, surely we must look after all to the children of Cuba for the best study of her future, just as we must look to the youth of any land to get the surest idea of its possibilities and its destiny. Countries are what men make them, and the power and force of nationalities are measured by the worth of the individual citizens. If Cuba should win her freedom and hoist her lone star flag under the constellation of National ensigns, would it not rest with the rising generations of the island whether that flag should wave over a land of peace, contentment and prosperity, or whether it should fall drooping from hands too weak to uphold it? And if the war should result in a triumph for Spain, would not the question of Cuba's future still rest largely with the youth of the land to be wrought out for real or for woe?

In such a light there is a world of interest in the study of the lives that Cuban children lead—their simple customs and faith; their habits, their pursuits, the daily doings and tendencies of child life. It is but fair to the people of the island to have had poor chances and few opportunities, for the boys and girls of the island were born and have lived thus far amid seasons



BOYS PLAYING MARBLES.

of disturbance. The old feud between the native Cubans and the Spaniards has never died since the war of 1868. It may have been smothered like live coals beneath the ashbank, but there has been a round of internal discord all the while. So long as such a state of affairs is endured by the people of any country, be it far more advanced in every way than was Cuba, it is difficult to give their care to the training of children that they should have, and they grow up with slim chance of being well educated and with conflicting impulses of patriotism and disobedience

to the Nation under whose rule they must meet the duties of citizenship. Love of country is the first lesson of childhood so far as the making of Nations goes, and this certainly is a well learned lesson with the youth of Cuba. When a filibustering boat landed on the Cuban shore not long ago with numbers of youthful insurgents aboard, though they had lived several years in the States, they hurried from the vessel and fell upon the ground and kissed the very soil of their native land.

The second lesson of citizenship in childhood is loyalty to National Government. This the children of Cuba have never had, for they have nearly all caught from infancy an inspiration of disobedience to Spanish rule. This, of course, with reference to the native Cubans as distinct from the Spanish citizens who claim the island as their adopted home, having moved there from Spain.

With such environment it is easy to see that the lives of the young people of Cuba of the present day have been pitched in poor season. Nevertheless, it must not be deducted from this that the young folks are growing up in illiteracy to any extraordinary degree. In Cuba there is a system of public schools supported by the Spanish Government, and while it is not as complete and thorough as it might be, offers liberal advantages, particularly to the children of the larger cities and towns. Many of these schools are not patronized very largely by the native Cubans, because of the antagonism to Spanish officialdom. Thus, it is often the case that native Cuban families of a neighborhood will mutually hire a private teacher for their children rather than send their boys and girls to an institution established by the Government. The Universidad at Havana is well patronized by the Cubans, and this institution has given many a young man a good practical education and skill for professional life. There are in Havana several other institutions for higher education and also many schools and asylums established by churches and benevolent institutions. But, in times of feudal strife and dissension, schools and colleges do not—cannot prosper, nor can they be expected to fulfill their desired scope of usefulness and jurisdiction. As a consequence, among the wealthier class of Cubans it is quite frequently the case that they send their boys to the States to be educated at the leading universities and colleges of this country.



A WATER DOG.

The animal is, however, no fish, but is a cousin of the salamander, and one of the lowest of the group of animals called batrachians. It gets the name of water dog. It may be a foot long and has a broad, flat, four short legs, a wide mouth and three pairs of bony gills. The gills are not concealed as they are in the case of the water dog, but stand out from the head and back as a number of spots. It is a rather unamiable creature, and the usual whoop of it, if not acquainted with it, is, and believe it to be venomous. The contrary, is it wholly harmless, and it is doubtful if it can be provoked into biting. It certainly is not poisonous.

This animal lives perhaps where the water of rivers, ponds and streams. There it conceals itself, at least during the day, under stones and other objects. Out of such lurking places it protrudes its head and watches for its prey. The gills, which are a beautiful scarlet color, are kept wet and to fro in the water. At night it prowls about seeking for food. It probably eats any living thing which it can swallow, fishes, frogs and snails. It sometimes devours large quantities of the spawn of fishes. Some years ago, in Escorse, Mich., about 2000 of these water dogs were taken in a single haul. They had doubtless been attracted to the spot by the spawning of the white fish, for some of them were so gorged with fish eggs that, when thrown on shore, the spawn flew out of their mouths.

These animals do not depend wholly on their gills for the air they need. They frequently come to the surface and gulp in air. They are found to have quite well developed lungs. As a rule, the batrachians possess gills while they are in the tadpole stage of life, but when this is past the gills are lost. In some respects the water dog remains a tadpole during its whole existence.

Three Pictures From One.
A pictorial view elephant, says the Boston Transcript, which had hung free for an unreasonable time in the galleries of a Boston dealer, was undoubtedly too large to hang in any ordinary room. It was an Oriental encasement scene, with Arabs, horses, camels, tents, firs, etc., in the twilight, with a rosy afterglow warming the western sky. There was enough material in the composition for a trio of pictures, and the shape, which was uncommonly wide in relation to its height, facilitated the surgery which was at last determined upon as a desperate resort. The work was done with skill. Elegant frames were built for the three new pictures, and before long three customers were made happy at a comparative trifling expense. Each of their works is by an eminent French Orientalist, but whether his name is signed to all three or not we cannot say.

First American Rector.
Services were held the other day in Christ Episcopal Church, Stratford, Conn., in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Samuel Johnson, the first rector of the church, and the first American to hold the position of rector of an Episcopal Church in the country. Dr. Johnson was the first instructor appointed to Yale after that institution had been transferred to New Haven.

Frightful Mortality in India.
Official returns from India for last year show that 2898 persons lost their lives through tigers, panthers, bears, elephants and other wild beasts during the year; while 21,538 died from snake bites, three-fourths of which were caused by cobras. About 97,000 domestic animals were also killed by wild animals during the same period.

WINTER WEAR.

COATS AND NOVELTIES IN MEN'S GARMENTS.

The Coat of Havana Brown With Hat of Golden Felt—The Latest Styles in Sleeves.



THE CHICKEN DEALER.

family seeks refuge in it. When the war is over the O come as refugees will probably return to Cuba, for they are Cuban people and love their island so well they will rarely weaned away from their native land.—Atlanta Constitution.

QUEER FISH WITH FOUR LEGS.

Commonly Called a "Water Dog" Found in Lake Michigan.

Now and then, says the Chicago Times-Herald, the newspapers get about some unlucky sportsman who has captured "a fish with legs." It is sometimes asserted that the colorist have been consulted and that they are unable to identify the monster.



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The heaviest car of wool ever shipped out of Idaho was loaded at Mountain Home the other day. It was a fifty foot car, containing 43,474 pounds, while the under portion, denominated a "puff," contained 43,474 pounds of wool. The freight charged on the car to Boston, its destination, was \$800.

WINTER WEAR.

COATS AND NOVELTIES IN MEN'S GARMENTS.

The Coat of Havana Brown With Hat of Golden Felt—The Latest Styles in Sleeves.

ROBUSTLY swell coat is of Havana brown Melton, decorated with Persian lamb, in first large picture. The garment, says May Manton, is of reasonable length, the lining green and blue changing a "chic" finish to the imported walking hat of black satin and white aigrette is a pleasant addition to this very dressy loose fitting frock coat right front extending in double breasted style

consists call it, "a ruck sleeve," is decidedly becoming and admirably adapted to soft and pliable material. No. 2 is of canvas cloth and is comfortably fitted to the arm from the wrists to a goodly height above the elbow, the same stylish puffs used in No. 1 completing the model. The wrists may be plainly completed or with lace as shown.

To make these sleeves in the medium size requires two and one-quarter yards for No. 1 design and one and three-quarter yards for No. 2 design of forty-four-inch wide material.

SERVICEABLE HOUSE GOWNS.

Figured wool challis is chosen for this neat and serviceable gown, so admirably adapted for home wear. The standing collar and sleeve tabs are of ruby velvet, outlined with narrow lace edging, while the fanciful girdle of ribbon velvet in the same warm tint confers the fulness at the waist.

The pretty gown, gathered at the neck, is mounted over fitted body



DOUBLE-BREASTED COAT AND IMPORTED WALKING HAT.

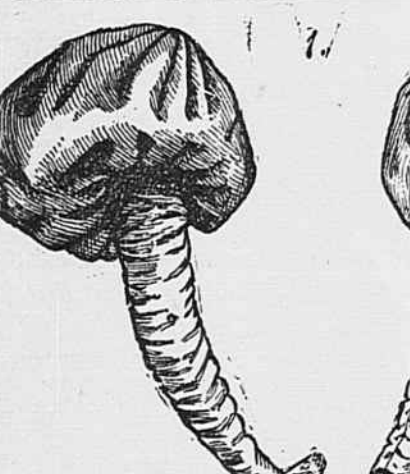
possibly with a fly. The lining is reversed to form a lapel from the closing of the close fitting back, side, and waist line. The lining is newly joined on each side of the shirring, which serves to hold the fulness gracefully to the figure, finishing in the center front with stylish bows and ends.

The one-sleeved gigot sleeves are of moderate fulness and are arranged over fitted linings that may be omitted if not desired. A standing collar of velvet completes the neck.

All serviceable materials may be employed in making this jaunty gown, such as challis, delaine, cotton or wool crepon, etc., or the garment can be made of washable fabrics and worn with linen turnover collar and cuffs, thus completing an ideal gown for the practical housekeeper.

To make this gown in the medium size requires five yards of forty-four-inch wide material.

The styles for sleeves are legion, writes May Manton. Two models are here illustrated which are used extensively at present. No. 1 is represented a rich pane-de-sole with a ruffle of soft, creamy lace falling over the hand. The material being disposed in a short distance from the wrist to the elbow, the sleeve is draped over fitted lining of east tape. The short puff is quite the latest feature of the new sleeves and is gathered at the upper and lower edges with most of the fulness near the



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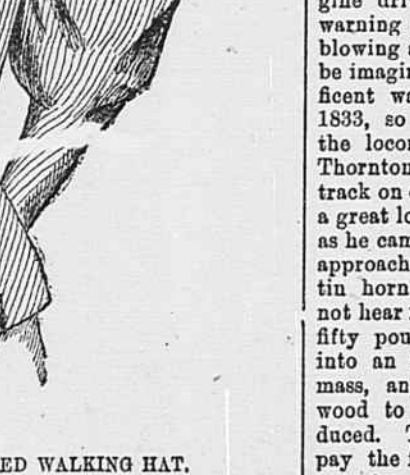
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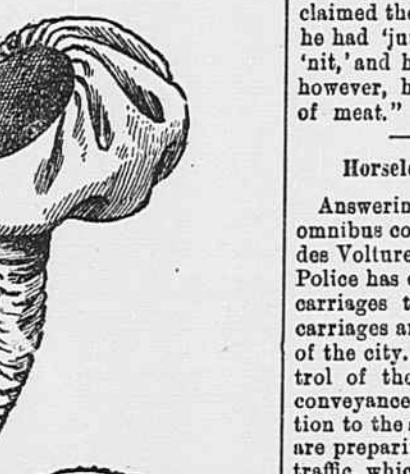
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WISE WORDS.

The greatest duty is the present one. Truth is always ready to be baptized with fire.

A covetous man is continually robbing himself.

Whenever we do wrong, something good in us dies.

A bad man can have no possessions that are fire proof.

A better thing than riches is contentment without them.

Whoever has a good temper will be sure to have many other good things.

Have nothing to with a little sin, or you will soon be in the power of a big one.

Disinterested kindness will burn like fire, when we know that we do not deserve it.

Better go to bed hungry sometimes, than set up every morning head over heels in debt.—Ran's Horn.

Evolution of the Whistle.

When locomotives were first built and began to tangle their small loads up and down the newly and rudely connected railway of England, the public roads were for the greatest part, crossed at a grade, and the engine driver had no way of giving warning of his approach except by blowing a tin horn. But this, as may be imagined, was far from being a sufficient warning. One day in the year 1833, so runs a story of the origin of the locomotive whistle, a farmer of Thornton was crossing the railway track on one of the country roads with a great load of eggs and butter. Just as he came out upon the track a train approached. The engine driver blew his tin horn lustily, but the farmer did not hear it. Eighty dozen of eggs and fifty pounds of butter were smashed into an indistinguishable, unpleasant mass, and mingled with the kindling wood to which the wagon was reduced.

The railway company had to pay the farmer the value of his fifty pounds of butter, his 960 eggs, his horse and his wagon. "I regarded as a serious matter," writes a director of the company went to Atton Grange, where George Stevenson lived, to see if he could not invent something that would give a warning

contrivance which, when attached to the engine boiler and the steam turned on, gave out a shrill, discordant sound. The railway directors, greatly delighted, ordered similar contrivances to be attached to all the locomotives, and from that day to this the voice of the locomotive whistle has never been silent.—Cassier's Magazine.

Caught a Doe in the River.

The story is told in the Seattle (Wash.) Post-Intelligencer by W. H. Morris, an eye witness, as follows:

"Judge Humes and myself took a trip Saturday afternoon to Green River in the vicinity of Palmer for a day's fishing. We camped near the river that night, about three and a half miles east of Palmer. The next morning we started in fishing and had great luck, successfully landing 175. Along in the afternoon I was fishing in a sort of canyon where the water was fifteen or twenty-five feet deep. Below me on a sort of spit was the Judge, his homely dog sitting at his side. Suddenly there was a noise in the bushes above the bank above the Judge and a pretty dog appeared on the bank of the river. The dog jumped to the doe and the doe took to the water. The dog followed and, in a moment, was on the doe's back and hauled her by the ear. The doe dived to get rid of the dog and was successful.

"As she came up the Judge fired a stone at her but missed. The next time he was successful, the missile striking the animal in the eye and stunning it. Fearing the dog would enter the water, the Judge plunged boldly into the water, clothes, boots and hat on, and with one arm swam to the animal which he grappled and held. With his hunting-knife he cut the doe's throat and then swam ashore where several loggers had gathered. One of them who had a revolver claimed the deer on the ground that he had 'jumped it.' The Judge said 'no,' and held the fort. Afterwards, however, he made all of us a present of meat."

Horseless Carriages in Paris.

Answering applications from the omnibus company and the Compagnie des Voltures of Paris the Prefect of Police has decided to allow petroleum carriages to take the place of horse carriages and tram cars in the streets of the city. Other companies in control of the various means of public conveyance have turned their attention to the subject of automobiles, and are preparing for the revolution in traffic, which appears to be imminent, a revolution from which they will derive considerable benefit. The automobiles owned by private persons are now a common sight in Paris streets, and the Journal des Debats says they will soon be as frequently used as a public means of transportation as a licensed cab.

Among the advantages which the company would derive from the change would be protection from the uncertainties of expenditure caused by mortality among its horses, and by the great fluctuations in the prices of fodder. Another important point is made by M. P. Leroy-Beaulieu, the celebrated writer on economics, who, in a recent issue of the Economist Francis, shows that on the substitution of automobiles for horses the company would have little to fear from a strike. At present when a strike breaks out the company cannot hold out long, for its horses are eating their heads off and are also suffering from want of exercise. Automobiles, on the other hand, would cost nothing out of work.—New York Press.

Immense Pearl Fisheries.

The pearl shell fisheries of the Merquian archipelago, in the Government of Barma, comprise 11,000 square miles. The gathering of pearl shell is the chief industry, though, of course, pearls are also found. The banks are rented from the Government, and rights to fish subject on a royalty.—Philadelphia Ledger.

MOTHERS READ THIS.

The Best Remedy.

For Flatulent Colic, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Nausea, Coughs, Cholera Infantum, Teething Children, Cholera Morbus, Unnatural Drains from the Bowels, Stomach, Griping, Loss of Appetite, Indigestion and all Diseases of the Stomach and Bowels.

PITT'S CARMINATIVE
Is the standard. It carries children over the critical period of teething and is recommended by physicians as the friend of Mothers, Adults and Children. It is pleasant to the taste, and never fails to give satisfaction. A few doses will demonstrate its superior virtues. For sale by druggists.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Mexico has a 130-ton locomotive. Gas engines propel Dresden cars. Around Prætor Sound the region is exceedingly rich and promising in its marine and animal life.

A nail making machine produces as many nails in a given time as were formerly made by 1000 men.

A fossilized tooth of some extinct species of animal recently found in Cedar County, Nebraska, weighs 144 pounds.

Furniture made of compressed paper is being manufactured. It possesses the advantages of lightness, and can be molded into any desired shape.

A company has been formed to lay a pipe line from the Indiana oil fields to Chicago. The distance is 170 miles, and six-inch pipe is to be used.

A great find of platinum is reported from Pitfield, New South Wales. The mine is a mile long and from sixty to 150 feet wide, and the ore yields seventy-five per cent. of platinum.

That newest thing, the roller steamer upon which M. Barin proposes to wheel himself across the channel next month, is not, it seems, new at all. In 1880 a Captain Bagot patented a vessel essentially identical to the Ernest Bazin, and a year or two later one similar in idea was said to be building on the Hudson.

The stopping capacity of the bullet fired from the new English army rifle is rather indefinite. Whenever the rifle has been used against a savage foe it has seemed singularly inefficient. If the bullet happens to strike a vital spot the victim is dead, beyond recall, but if not the bullet is of no more injury than a charge from a popgun.

Chiff-Dwellers at Home.

Hamlin Garland contributes an interesting article to the Ladies' Home Journal on the homes and home life of the Pueblo Dwelling Indians (Ojibwa) of the Southwest, whom he designates as "The Most Mysterious People in America." "It took far of man to set these villages on these heights," he writes. "As I approached Waipi I could hardly believe anything living was upon it. The houses, massive, dirt colored, flat and square as rocks, secreted themselves upon the cliff, like turtles. The first evidence of life was a small field of corn set deep in 'the wall' or dry river bed. Then an old man watching the road beneath a shade of poplar boughs. Then some peach trees knee deep in sand. Then some red roof houses built by the Government. By this time I could see tiny figures moving about on the high ledges and on the roofs of the houses. Up the trail a man on a burro was driving a flock of sheep and goats. He wore a light cotton trowsers and a calico shirt. His legs were bare, and on his head was a straw hat. Farther up the trail some old women were toiling with huge bottles of water slung on their backs. From the moment I entered that trail I was deep in the elemental past. Here was life reduced to its simplest form. Houses of heavy walls, with interiors like cellars or caves, set for defense upon a cliff. Here were flat roofs, thick, to keep out the sun and to make a dooryard for the next tier of houses above. Here were nude children with tangled hair, wild as colts and fleet as antelope,