

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

A New York physician "who is taken by everybody to be ten or fifteen years younger" than he is, attributes this favorable condition to the use of lemonade taken regularly four times a day. He has used 3000 lemons a year for ten years.

One of the English railway companies has supplied all its employes with red neckcloths, the wearing of which is to be compulsory. The object of this regulation is to furnish porters, guards or switchmen with red flags that are always at hand, and can be employed in the event of any sudden accident or the derangement of the regular signals.

The safety of mountain travel in this country is proved by the small number of accidents reported each year. Compared with the results of an Alpine season, or even of a summer among mountains in Wales, the sum of the season among our mountain resorts is most satisfactory. Perhaps Americans are more careful in their ventures in mountain-climbing.

Martin Ewing, a colored man living at Keyterville, Mo., was born in 1765, and is the oldest man in this country. His memory is good and his mind clear. But few wrinkles furrow his cheek. If he would dye his hair, his general appearance would indicate a man about seventy. He has lost but a few teeth, his eyesight is good, except a cataract in one eye from a blow forty-five years ago.

The total annual product of fish is about 1,500,000 tons for Europe and America; a ton of fish being equal to about twenty-eight sheep, a year's fish supply is, therefore, for the United States, Canada, and the ten European countries included in this estimate, equal to 42,000,000 head of sheep. Of this amount, 1,000,000 tons, or the equivalent to 28,000,000 head of sheep, are consumed in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Russia.

The richest single woman in the country is Catherine Wolfe. She has an income estimated at half a million a year, and she owns real estate all over New York. Her father, Peter Wolfe, married Peter Lorillard's sister, and with her got a dowry of \$1,000,000. His wife died soon after and he married another of the Lorillard sisters, and with her got another million. In a short time she died also, and Wolfe, after speculating awhile with his two million and more, died himself, and his property came to his daughter Catherine.

Of the 2,647,000 women in occupations in the United States 595,000 are engaged in agriculture, most of them colored women in the Southern States; 632,000 are in manufactories, of whom about one-half are in New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania; 282,000 are milliners, etc.; 50,000 are tailors. Of the 44 occupations recorded as "personal service," 40 find women in them. The 525 female surgeons of 1870 have increased to 2,743; the 7 lawyers to 75; the 65 clergymen to 165. The number of laundries have increased from 61,000 in 1870 to 122,000, and of the latter 108,000 are kept by women. This large increase shows a great lightening of the housewife's labor.

According to the last United States census there are 563 establishments in this country devoted to the proprietary medicine business, employing 4,015 operatives, with an aggregate investment of capital amounting to \$10,620,000, and the annual product is valued at \$14,682,000. New York State leads all others with an invested capital of \$3,512,430, which is about one-third of the entire country's investment. Pennsylvania comes next and Missouri ranks third in invested capital, followed respectively by Ohio and Massachusetts. In the amount of annual product New York again stands first, followed in order by Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, the other States standing about even. A fair calculation is that about twenty-five American proprietary medicines have at present a very large sale in England.

The American Exhibition in London next summer promises to be a success. The site is already engaged, and occupies twenty acres near the West Brompton station. The exhibits will have for their aim the "showing to the Old World what the resources, products, manufactures, and arts of the United States are at the present time." Perhaps one of the most interesting parts of the Exhibition will be the "American Garden," in which will be seen as complete a flora of the United States as can be collected. The

trees, shrubs, and plants are to be arranged according to longitude and latitude. In this way the student may study local diversities in systematic progression, and many flowers and flowering shrubs will appear for the first time away from their native habitat. A special newspaper, published monthly, called the *American Eagle*, is issued to promote and explain the objects of the exhibition, which is expected to form a leading attraction of the next season.

A New Mexican Sand-storm.
The air was still as death, and there was not a puff of wind nor a rag of cloud in the whole horizon. I observed, however, that the sky had undergone a curious change. There was no diminution of the blazing sunlight, but the deep blue had been superseded by a strange white glare that was nearly blinding, and the heat had increased rather than diminished. We saddled hastily, and were soon threading our way through the broiling labyrinth of sand-hills and out on to the broad mesa. We had not gone more than a mile or two in the direction of Espanola when Joe, who had been glancing about in all directions, suddenly remarked, "There she comes!" and jumping off his burro, commenced tying him up behind an adjacent heap of large bowlders. We stared in the direction he pointed out, but could discover nothing save the white sky, the hills, and the sandy plains. As we looked, however, we gradually became aware that far down the valley two or three of the hills had entirely disappeared, and stranger still, that more of them were being eaten up under our very eyes! A little brownish-black cloud, no bigger than one's hand, was the monster that was devouring the landscape. We hastily secured the animals in the shelter of the rocks, and came back to look. The cloud had already spread quite across the plain and valley, and was approaching with frightful rapidity. It was not more than five miles away. It swept along towards us, with constantly accelerating speed, a bellying, portentous, black wall of dust, that sent long waving fingers up to the zenith. Mile after mile of mesa, and hill after hill, disappeared in its vast maw, until there was only one rise left. This was swallowed up, and then, almost before we could seek shelter, the storm was upon us with a shriek and a blast like the breath from a cannon. Instantly everything was obscured. I peeped through my half-closed lids, and could not see a sage-bush which I had noticed the moment before only a few feet distant. The air was full of the dull roar of the battling winds. We could barely hear the sound of our voices when we shouted. Everything had been wiped away from the face of the earth, and a blur of gray dust was all that remained. I could barely distinguish those nearest me through this strange mist. The worst of it lasted for about half an hour, I should think, but the air was still full of dust when we arrived home, about two hours later. Such is a New Mexican sand-storm. We found all our household goods covered with a mat of from half an inch to an inch of an impalpable powder, which had sifted in through every crack and cranny. Nothing had escaped.

A Great Russian Festival.
One of the most characteristic festivals of the Russian empire—is the "Kreshtchenie Vod," or "Christening of the Waters." The performance is said to date 900 years back to the time when Prince Vladimir and his Kiev spearman dipped themselves in the Dnieper and swore "to be true to Christ and his law." Ever since, on the 13th day of January, in every part of the vast empire, the cross is plunged through the ice into the rivers, and the priest's traditional formula of blessing is uttered over it. In St. Petersburg the ceremony assumes the aspect of a national festival. As the noonday gun sounds, the gate of the winter palace swings slowly open and a single figure appears—that of the Grand Duke Constantine, his brother Michael, or even the czar himself. Then the high priest descends to an opening previously cut through the ice in the Neva, and, plunging the cross into the water, solemnly pronounces the words of consecration.

In Hard Luck.
"I think I'm the unluckiest man in town," said a husband to his wife. "Smith has owed me \$20 for three months, and he promised to pay me to-day."
"Didn't he pay?" she asked, anxiously.
"Yes, he paid, but while he was in the act of giving me the money Brown came in—you know I've owed Brown \$20 for more than a year—and, of course I had to turn the money over to him. That's what I call hard luck."
—*New York Sun.*

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