

BADEN-POWELL'S SWORD.

One of the Finest Ever Made Now Sent to the Hero of Mafeking.

One of the finest swords ever made has recently been presented to Gen. Baden-Powell, the hero of Mafeking, by the citizens of Port Elizabeth, in South Africa.

ASCENT OF MOUNT ARARAT.

The Spot on Which Noah's Ark Rested is Very Difficult to Reach.

The Ararat mountains in Armenia comprise two peaks situated seven miles apart. They are known as Great and Little Ararat and are respectively 17,350 and 14,210 feet above the plain.

ECONOMY IN GUN TESTING.

Heavy Artillery Practice Would Be Too Costly If Full Charges Were Used.

The method used in the United States navy for the economical training of the gunners is very interesting. It is a well-known fact, says the Washington Star, that the cost of firing one of the large guns used in the navy is very great, amounting sometimes to \$1,000 or more.

TOPAZ IS MUCH FAVORED.

This Beautiful Gem is Highly Prized by Fashionables at Present.

"Not the least beautiful of the many semi-precious stones for which there is always a large demand is the topaz," said a wholesale dealer in gems to a Washington Star writer.

HOW MASKS ARE MADE.

Interesting Particulars of a Thriving Industry in Sausage-making, Germany.

Paper masks are made by doubling one sheet of a specially prepared paper, wetting it and molding it by hand over a face form; it is then dried by artificial heat.

RACE FOR CHINESE MARKET.

The Great Advantage to Shippers of Being Near the Principal Ports.

It would be tedious to explain at length how it has come about that the British shipper finds it a positive disadvantage to be 2,000 miles nearer the Chinese market than his chief competitor, says John Fould, the secretary of the American Asiatic Association.

MONTH OF ANNIVERSARIES.

September Has Been Full of Momentous Events for the People of Malta.

The month of September is full of anniversaries of great interest to the people of Malta. On September 3, 1653, the great siege of Malta was raised, when the Turks being completely repulsed, Europe was saved from the common enemy.

FISH TENACIOUS OF LIFE.

Cod and Lobster Live a Long Time After Being Taken from the Water.

Two instances showing how tenacious of life lobsters and cod are are related in a bulletin of the United States fish commission. In the fall of 1889 about 20 lobsters were left in a car in the "basin" at a fish commission wharf.

CHAT OF STREET FAKIRS.

Two of Them Discuss Past and Present Conditions of Their Business.

"I wish it was this time last year," said the street fakir who had been selling woolly white rabbits with a rubber tube attachment which makes them jump, relates a New York exchange.

DUMMY BOOKS FOR LAWYERS.

A Bookkeeper's Term for Permissible Looking Volumes That Are Almost Worthless.

As a blind phrase, "legal fillings" ought to be opaque enough. Even the Rochester publishing firm, which advertises the goods leads the advertisement with the question, "Looks like a joke, doesn't it?"

LAND DROPS OUT OF SIGHT.

Two Hundred Acres in the Borough of Northampton Have Disappeared.

It has just been discovered that the Borough of Northampton has 200 acres less land than it has been supposed, says a London exchange. In obtaining facts for the pending enlargement of the municipal borough the area of the town was carefully re-calculated and it was found that instead of being 1,520 acres it was only 1,311.

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STUDY PHRENOLOGY.

Students Come to America from All Parts of the World.

The Science of Reading Character by Exploring the Surface of the Human Head, and Its Devotees.

Probably more than a thousand persons have in New York studied phrenology. People have come here from all parts of the world to study it. From every part of the United States, England, the continent, and even from New Zealand and Australia have come young and middle-aged persons for the purpose of learning how to read character by exploring the surface of the human head.

HAVE GONE OUT OF STYLE.

Porterhouse Steaks Are No Longer Craved by the New York Fashionables.

Porterhouse steaks have gone out of fashion, according to one of the up-town butchers who supplies meat to a lot of the families in the fashionable districts on Riverside drive and West End avenue, says the New York Tribune.

HEALTHFUL ON MOUNTAINS.

The Air of High Altitudes Contains No Microbes and Is Sterile.

It is well known that the chemical composition of the atmosphere differs but little, if at all, wherever the sample be taken; whether it be on the high Alps or at the surface of the sea; the relation of oxygen to nitrogen and other constituents is the same, says the London Lancet.

STRUGGLING YOUNG AUTHOR.

Mr. Prude That About Twenty to One Is the Prevailing Ratio of Honor and Wisdom.

"While I have not yet in any great measure succeeded in persuading publishers of the desirableness of my productions," said the struggling young author, according to the New York Sun, "I have, through my experiences with them, come to some conclusions regarding the marketability of literary matter."

WILD GRAPE HARVEST.

Conscientious Farmhouses Fray with Jelly-Making from Them—Lead in Making Wine.

Late September is the season of the wild grape harvest. The crop is not so large as it was last year, but the fruit is plentiful enough to make "graping" a pleasant diversion, writes a Connecticut correspondent of the New York Sun.

THE ETHICS OF GAMBLING.

She Knew That It Was Not Right to Make a Bet on a Certainty.

"Woman," remarked Mr. Gooding, of Georgetown, relates the Washington Star, "is Heaven's best gift to man, but whether it means a married woman or not, I am not so certain. Now, there's my wife; I've known a great many women in my time, and I don't think I'd be willing to change her for any woman I ever met, saw or heard of. We've been married 20 years, and in all that time we've never had a cross word, that we didn't get disposed of somehow before we had many more. It's the only way to get along with a woman. I'd rather yield a dozen times a day than to eat the kind of a meal my wife can have brought on the table when she's in a mood. I'm willing to make as many concessions as the next man, but I really think there is a limit that any reasonable woman ought to observe. Not that my wife is not as reasonable as any other married woman, mind you, for she is. But there are times when she makes me doubt the strict accuracy of the time-honored maxim I have quoted. Now, for instance, the other day I was doing something or other around the house, like a man has a right to do on his own premises, and, just as men sometimes do, I put my finger where I had no business to, and hit it a lick with the hammer.