

SEEKING VETERANS.
Woman Who Trap Old Soldiers for Their Pensions.

The large colony of women who have gone to Hollowell and Gardner, Me., to prey upon the inmates of the soldiers' home at this place are in a state of panic over the recent suggestion of Pension Commissioner Evans, who has recommended to congress that no pensions be granted the widows of soldiers, who are married hereafter, says the New York Sun.

Many veterans who live at the home are trapped into marriage every year by women who seek the \$12 a month pension which will come to them on the death of their husbands. Most of these women have had reputations and no character. Having led gay lives in the cities until their beauty is gone, they seek marriage with the old soldiers for the sole purpose of inheriting pensions. After capturing husbands most of the women go back to the cities and cause more trouble until death carries off the veterans and the widows' pensions may be obtained.

There are a dozen places near the home, all of which do a thriving business by luring the veterans inside and filling them up with liquor until they fall an easy prey to the women who are waiting for husbands. In case a man refuses to drink and shows resistance he is quieted with a club, or anything else that comes handy. Last spring an inmate of the home was killed in a free fight in one of these dens.

Commissioner Evans' declaration strikes at the root of the evil, and is causing the women to redouble their efforts. Unless they get husbands before congress meets, they fear their prospects of pensions will fade. New women are coming here from Boston and New York, and the dives are wide open. A man who wears a Grand Army badge can stay drunk for a month and never spend a cent. The local police are making efforts to close the places, but as fast as one is shut up others are started, and the business goes on briskly as ever.

AN UNEXPLORED COUNTRY.

No Traveler Ever Succeeded in Crossing Tibet's Frontier.

The immense territory of Tibet is almost completely surrounded by mountain ranges of appalling magnitude, which, especially along the southern, western and northern frontiers, constitute formidable barriers against ingress. From the Pamir plateau, in the extreme west, says the Boston Transcript, ("the world's backbone") radiate the great natural ramparts which shut out India on the one hand, and the Tartar countries of Bokhara and Turkestan on the other. No Asiatic or western conqueror has ever dared to penetrate this mountain world, and even Genpish Kahn, the scourge of Asia, whose ravages extended from Peking in the east to Moscow in the west, was obliged when invading northern India to take the circuitous route via Kashgar and Afghanistan, instead of crossing Tibet. Secure on their lofty plateaus and practically isolated from the rest of the world the people of Tibet have remained undisturbed for ages, and have developed characteristics for which we would vainly search in any race of the globe. The Chinese "conquest" has not produced the slightest change in their mode of life or exercised any appreciable influence upon their peculiar culture.

VAN AND VON.

The Real Significance of the Dutch and German Prefixes Explained. It is a common mistake of those who speak only English to suppose that the prefix "van" before a Dutch name signifies nobility. In the "low countries"—that is, in the kingdoms of the Netherlands and of Belgium—"van" has no particular meaning. Names with "van" are to be read on signs as well as on the doors of the most aristocratic mansions. The humblest persons have them as well as the most exalted, and a great number of the very oldest families are without it.

But in Germany "von" implies nobility, and all persons who belong to the nobility prefix "von" to their family names without any exception. Persons who do not belong to the nobility cannot have the right to put "von" before their names. A man who is knighted for some reason, however, has the same right to put "von" before his family name as a person of ancient nobility. For instance, when Alexander von Humboldt was knighted he became Alexander von Humboldt. All his descendants, male and female, take the prefix.

Tale of the Sea.

Two American captains were recently relating their experiences on different voyages. One of them told the following story: "About one p. m. on March 2 my ship was proceeding under full sail when a cloud about the size of a man's hand was observed on the horizon. It came on, and as it neared the ship we discovered that it was composed of locusts. They settled on the sails and you couldn't see a bit of canvas for them. When they flew away there was not a stitch of canvas left on the yards." "Ah," said the other captain, "I can quite believe that, for at about 30 p. m. on March 2 my vessel was proceeding under full sail when we observed a small cloud on the horizon. As it approached the ship we discovered that it was a cloud of locusts, and as they passed our vessel we saw that every man Jack of them had a pair of 100 canvas trousers on."

Offended at the Prince of Wales. The storekeepers of London are in arms over the visit of the prince of Wales, their best patron, to a large department store this week. The heir apparent carefully inspected the establishment and made numerous purchases.

Blind English Sportsman. In Suffolk, England, there is a young man who, though blind, is a good skater, and bicyclist rider.

GRAPE CURE GARDENS.
Successfully Established Fifty Years Ago Near Berne.

The happiest and most successful health seekers of our latter-day world are probably the summer guests of the Traubens Kuren, or grape-cure gardens, that were established some fifty years ago in the neighborhood of Berne, and can now be found all over Switzerland, France, the Rhineland countries and southern Austria, says Chautauquan.

Guests eat a very light breakfast. Weather permitting, they then scatter in quest of a sharp appetite. The serious work of the day begins at ten a. m., when the gates of the vineyard are opened for the forenoon lunch. Gossips stroll up and down the leafy alleys, culling tidbits here and there; business men gather a good supply and retreat with a book to somehow snack to spice their lunch with a utilitarian purpose. If a glutton desires to eat his money's worth to the last penny the landlord gives him a fair chance; nobody controls the proceedings of the lunch party, and the dinner bell does not ring before three p. m. In other words, the grape cutters get a five hours' opportunity to eat their fill, and experts can get away with 15 pounds more easily and with infinitely less risk to their hygienic interests than a brewery employee with 15 schooners of alcoholized barley swill.

Grapes, it is true, are chiefly sweet water with a subtle flavoring from nature's own laboratory; but in no other form can the human organism absorb so large a quantity of blood-purifying liquids with such a minimum of distressing after effects. The ex-pugative fluid reaches every part of the system, rinsing out morbid humors and restoring congested organs to a healthy state of functional activity, for reasons which, traced to their ultimate significance, mean that man, in spite of nature, is a frugivorous, not a carnivorous nor a herbivorous biped.

CARPETS AND RUGS.

And Their Marked Effect on the Moving Habit.

A certain man who owns a row of dwelling houses over in the northwest quarter of the town has learned wisdom by bitter experience. A friend of mine went to him not long ago to rent one of the houses, says a Washington Post man.

"Do you lease it by the month or by the year?" she inquired.

"That depends on what you are going to have on your floors," answered the landlord. "Are you going to have carpets?"

"No," answered my friend; "we have rugs."

"You'll have to sign a year's lease, then," the landlord made reply, smiling craftily. "If you bought carpets and had them fitted to the floor I know you'd stay in the house as long as you could, but these rugs are too easily adjusted to any sized room. You'll have to sign a year's lease if you have rugs. There are seven houses in my row and six of them haven't kept a tenant longer than two years at a time for the last five years. The seventh house—well, the people in it had carpets made and laid it five years ago, and they haven't thought of moving. Carpets, I'll rent by the month; rugs, a year's lease."

WOULD REVOLUTIONIZE SCIENCE

No Toad Has Ever Been Found in Closed in Solid Rock.

Stories of toads inclosed in solid rock are not at all uncommon, but of all the reported cases not one has ever been substantiated. When investigated, says the Milwaukee Journal, it is found that they are made-up stories or that there was no toad or no rock or was a way for him to get in or out. People who find toads in solid rock must understand that it is an important matter. If ever there is one single case verified by dispute of finding a toad or any other living animal in an absolutely solid rock the science of geology will be swept from the realms of belief. The doctrine of evolution will crumble to airy nothing. Half of the exact sciences will have to be reorganized on an entirely new basis. Accumulated human knowledge will have to be revised from the bottom and most of what is so called rejected entirely. So the man who finds the toad had better be pretty sure that it is toad in a solid rock, and while he is about it he had better have witnesses and photographs and everything possible to be had in proof of his assertion, for it will be doubted. If he proves his cause no man ever known will have such enduring fame. Just find the road, gentlemen.

The Gizeh Pyramid.

The great pyramid of Gizeh is the largest structure of any kind ever erected by the hand of man. Its original dimensions at the base were 764 feet square, and its perpendicular height in the highest point is 486 feet; it covers four acres, one rod and twenty-two perches of ground, and has been estimated by an eminent English architect to have cost not less than \$30,000,000, which in United States currency would be about \$145,000,000. Internal evidences proved that the great pyramid was begun about the year 2170 B. C., about the time of the birth of Abram. It is estimated that about 5,000,000 tons of hewn stone were used in its construction, and the evidence points to the fact that these stones were brought a distance of about 700 miles from quarries in Arabia.

Oldest House in New England.

A tablet placed by the Society of Colonial Dames on the old Whitefield house in Guilford, Conn., was unveiled last week. This stone house was built in 1639, and is the oldest in New England. It was used for years as a meeting house.

Bicycles for London's Blind.

A London bicycle manufacturer has built seven machines for blind customers this year.

The Longest Lived Flowers.

Among flowers the chrysanthemum is said to live the longest after being cut.

HE DIDN'T APPEAR.
in Consequence the Old Woman Got Her Money Back.

This story is floating around among the story tellers, who say it has never been in print. A lawyer down in Kentucky was surprised by the appearance in his office one day of a big black woman who wanted his service, says the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

"Say, boss," she commenced, "how much will it cost to clah a woman if she mos' kills a low down niggah?"

"That depends on circumstances," he answered. "If the case wasn't an aggravated one, and if the woman had some show of right on her side it might be worth ten dollars."

"Dat's all I wanted to know, boss," and she waddled out with the remark: "I'll see you latrah."

About a week or two after she was at the office again early in the morning waiting for the "boss."

"Hyah's yoh ten dollars, boss, an' you mus' clah me!"

"What you been doing?" said the lawyer.

"Don' you 'member me, boss? You said it would cost about ten dollars to clah a woman fo' whippin' a low down niggah. I whopped de old man good, las' night an' des want you to stand by me."

"All right, auntie, I'll do the best I can for you. But maybe the old man won't prosecute you."

"Well, if he doesn't appear and prosecute you nothing will be done in the case."

"Well, if dat's so he won't appear, boss, fur if heigts outen his bed fur a week he'll be doin' puttly well. Jus' gimme de money back, boss, an' I'll tell him dat if he evah 'pears agin me I'll kick him wussen evah."

She got her money and left in a cheerful frame of mind.

ANNOUNCE JUDICIAIRE.

VENTE EN PARTAGE

LE JOLI COTTAGE DOUBLE

Trois Lots à Batir

ET

Batisses en bois à deux étages

Encouignre N° 0 des rues

St Thomas et St

James.

Subdivisés comme il est décrit ci-dessous.

Thomas Lunn vs Thomas J. Lun

et al.

No. 53.511 Cour Civile du District pour la paroisse d'Orléans Division PAR

MAISON KERNAGHAN

—W. A. KERNAGHAN, Encanteur—En

route, 138 rue du Camp-de-l'Est, le 10 Février

1898 à midi, à la Bourse des Encanteurs,

1898 et 531 rive Commune, il sera vendu aux

enchères publiques, à verté d'ordre daté

le 15 Janvier 1898, par l'Hon. N.

H. Rightor, juge de la Cour Civile de

Orléans, Division D, dans l'ordre des

enchères intitulé "A vente au

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