

A DELICATE QUESTION

Young Cressenden arose after a long night in a decidedly nervous condition. He shaved himself with particular care and chose from his wardrobe a dark tuxedo business suit that he thought would have a sober and substantial effect, and although rather selected to wear in his much-worn he contented himself on this occasion with a cravat of lustrous black silk, deciding that even satin would look rather too gaudy. Then he went down to breakfast and fortified himself with three large cups of black coffee. He tried to eat, but he could hardly force a mouthful.

An hour later Cressenden entered the office of John Stolbenker Construction company. The office boy took his card into a private room and in a few moments he was facing her father. "Glad to see you, Cressenden," said that august personage, cordially. "Sit down. How's everything?" "Pretty well, thank you, sir," said Cressenden. "How's everything with you? Is the family well?" "Why, none of them has been stricken down in the night. You were in the house last evening, weren't you?" "Cressenden grew red. "Why—yes, yes, certainly," he said. "I—er—I thought—"

CLAIM THEY CAN MAKE GOLD

Two Rhode Island Men Announce Results of Their Remarkable Experiments. Two Newport (R. I.) men, Thomas Cockings and Thomas Rees, who for five years have been toiling to wrest from nature the secret of making gold in paying quantities, claim to have at last realized the hope of their lives. The last assay that was received by them recently shows that their product ran 50 ounces to the ton of material used. As gold is worth \$20.90 per ounce, this would make a ton of product treated worth \$1,045, and they claim that there is big money in their discovery at this rate.

FLOWER GIRL HITS KING.

Bad Aim of Buxom Maiden Causes Her Arrest—Ruler Orders Her Released. Excess of loyalty and a bad aim got a buxom flower girl, by name Margaret Smith, into trouble. When the king paid his visit to London recently to lay the foundation stone of the new buildings of St. Bartholomew's hospital, Margaret, who as a matter of business sells sweet-smelling roses in the Euston road, thought she would take a holiday in order that she might see her sovereign.

PLANNED HIS OWN FUNERAL

Albert Livengood, of Indiana, Bought His Coffin and Shroud Months Ago. Albert Livengood, of Crawfordville, Ind., was buried the other day in a coffin and funeral robe selected and paid for by himself six months ago. Livengood was a victim of consumption. Last March he began preparing for his own funeral, and after several trips to the factory Mr. Livengood ordered a coffin of special design. He tried on and bought a shroud, ordered carriages, and indicated who was to ride in the carriages, and arranged with the minister for the service, even naming the text and the hymns to be sung.

MINERAL WEALTH FIGURES.

Statistics of Approximate Value in British Columbia for First Half-Year Made Public. The Victoria (B. C.) Colonist publishes statistics of the approximate mineral wealth of British Columbia for the first six months of the present year, compiled by the minister of mines. The production of the last six months of this year will be considerably in excess of the first six months on account of the amalgamation of large concerns in the Sound district and the installation of several concentrating plants in Rossland.

BOYS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Smoke Cigars as Big as Bananas and Fetch Pennies on Sunday. You must imagine 50,000 little boys and girls, with wonderful brown eyes, flat little noses and black hair, packing their books and slates to go to school each morning under the blue skies and tropic sun of the Philippines. And even in the islands where the towns are far apart the smallest village would be very much ashamed if it did not have some kind of a school, says a writer in the Buffalo Times.

OUR NEW FELLOW CITIZENS

Filipino Think That All Americans Look Alike and Are Fond of Beer. Not being able to talk a common language, the Filipinos often form mistaken ideas of the Americans. One is that all Americans are fond of beer. This impression, writes a correspondent, they have doubtless gained from the fact that it is the common beverage among the soldiers. An American was once visiting a native school that was rehearsing for a Fourth of July celebration. Much to his astonishment he heard the scholars enthusiastically shouting: "Three beers for the red, white and blue!"

Porto Ricans at Harvard.

In response to a general desire of the party, the officers of the Porto Rican teachers' expedition at Harvard are making arrangements to have the Porto Rican coffee served regularly to them, as this is one of the things they have missed the most since leaving their homes. Special instructions are to be given to dealers by a member of the party as to the exact method of roasting, as Porto Rican coffee, to be satisfactory to the natives, must be roasted perfectly black. Besides this, it is intended to have the meals at Randall Hall include as many as possible of the kinds of food to which the visitors are accustomed, such as rice and beans, codfish, etc. Many of the dishes present no difficulties so far as the materials are concerned, but require special instructions to the cooks as to the preparation.—Indianapolis News.

Chinese Magistrate's Boots.

Visitors to China are particularly struck by the number of pairs of boots hung in separate wooden cages in the archway of the main west gate of Hanchuan, the viceroyalty gift of benediction prefects. It is an attractive custom in China to invite a departing magistrate whose rule has been popular to leave a pair of old boots for suspension in a prominent place as a hint to his successor to follow in his footsteps. It is a considerable honor to be asked to leave these boots, and the people make the request all the more eagerly because they believe in the efficacy of the hint.

He Couldn't Resist It.

Mrs. Peck—Here's a lawsuit in Kentucky because a man refused to pay for burying his wife. She didn't live with him. If that isn't the queerest case! Henry Peck—I don't see as it was so queer. Nancy. Why should a man want to bury his wife if she didn't live with him?—Sis Hopkins' Book.

WHEN LOOPING THE LOOP.

There Is a Price Upon a Rush of Air, a Wild Grip at One's Hat, and the Shock. The "Loop the Loop" was just across the way and the artist reminded me that it was worth seeing, says Albert Bigelow Paine, in Century. "Of course we won't ride," he said, "but it is worth while to see the others." We entered the enclosure and gazed up at the pair of great steel loops around which cars are carried by the force of their own momentum. A loaded car was at the brink of a long incline. Suddenly it shot down; then for an instant it was in the circle—ascending, hanging, descending—and straight away up another incline, passing beyond our view. We declared strenuously against this appalling amusement. Another car went around, and another, and another. We became silent in the sort of fascination that awaits impending disaster.

Finally I felt the thing fermenting in my blood. Nobody seemed to be getting hurt, and I should like to have the record of that trip. I expected the artist to demur when I announced my intention, but he did not. Perhaps he was hypnotized. We buttoned our coats as if starting on a cold voyage. I had an impulse to leave some word for the folks at home. Then presently we were seated in a car, slowly ascending the preparatory incline. During this gradual ascent we had plenty of time to think. I found myself wondering if people ever fainted in making that swift revolution, also, if I had heart disease, and what would be the consequences to one affected in that way. Suddenly I remembered that the princess of the Nile had warned me against any unnecessary risk of life. It seemed a trivial thing at the moment, but I realized now that her words might have been fraught with a special meaning. I stole a look at the artist. He seemed pale and distrustful, perhaps remembering a similar warning. These contrivances always ended in some frightful disaster, and doubtless this was the trip for it to occur. The next day our names would be in the headlines.

GORY INDIAN BALL GAME.

Contests Often More Desperate Than the Worst Seen on the Gridiron. Indian ball is a peculiar, a fascinating and a bloody game. It is played on a ground almost like a gridiron. There are two goals 150 yards apart, and the object is to pass the ball between these goals. The ball is like a baseball, the Indians making them themselves with yarn covered with deer skin. A stick about two feet long with a spoon shape at the end backed by three lances is used, and in this spoon the Indians must catch the ball. He is not allowed to touch it with his hands. He catches and throws with his club. The game is a skirmish all the time, and there are 20 players on a side. An Indian catches the ball in his stick if he is skillful. He starts on a run for his goal. He is immediately tackled by all his opponents, and the scene closely resembles a "down." He runs as far as he can, and then tries to throw the ball. The opposing players balk at him at every move. They strike his stick if they can, and if not they strike whatever is in reach, often the head of the player. The games are sometimes bloody, especially when played between rival towns, and many a player has been killed in the game. When women play they are allowed to use their hands in addition to their sticks. They can throw the ball any way they like. They are as fleet as the men and with the advantage of their hands often win. A game consists of 21 points, and there is no time limit. They play until one side has put the ball through the goal 21 times.

Water Cure.

"Among other things," remarked the temperance man, "I consider water a good sleep-producer." "And so do I," replied the suburbanite. "I empty a pitcher each evening before retiring and then I can sleep like a top." "And you really drink a pitcher of water?" "No, I empty it on the dog that howls under my window."—Chicago Daily News.

TO VENTILATE STREET CAR

Invention of a Brooklyn Health Officer Said to Work Well Without Causing Chilling Draft. A simple method for effectually ventilating street cars without causing a draft, has been devised by Dr. Walker, chief of the health department of Brooklyn. Confronted with the problem of providing for the ingress of fresh air and the egress of foul air without subjecting the passengers to a chilling draught, Dr. Walker sought the simplest possible means. He had two openings made in the "deck-sash" of a car about ten inches apart, into which were fitted seats to deflect the intake of air to the roof of the car. Between these openings a shingle was extended from the side of the car so the wind would strike against it when the car was in motion.

NEGRO REALTY COMPANY.

Race Prejudice Investigates Formation of Organization in New York to Combat the Evil. To combat race prejudice against negro tenants in white districts, the Afro-American Realty company has started an anti-race campaign in New York city. Negro real estate operators and investors organized the company recently with a capital stock of \$500,000. They have subscribed for \$100,000 and the remaining \$400,000 is offered to negro capitalists at \$10 a share. "The idea that negroes must be confined to certain localities can be done away with," says the prospectus. "So can the idea that it is not practical to put colored and white tenants together in the same house. Race prejudice is a luxury, and like all other luxuries it can be made very expensive. With a cash capital of \$500,000 the Afro-American Realty company can turn race prejudice into dollars and cents." The company owns four five-story flats valued at \$125,000 and holds ten other flat houses under five-year leases. It has opened luxurious offices in the Borsari building. In the same building are the offices of many brokers, including the headquarters of the board of real estate brokers. All of the company's officers, directors and clerks are negroes. The company appeals to the negro investors exclusively. The prospectus says: "Some property in this city, when properly managed, will pay from 15 to 25 per cent on the dollar, with \$500,000 in this manner invested, even if we never recoup any of our holdings at a profit."

SMALL REWARD REJECTED.

New York Car Conductor Returns \$1,500 and Refuses Offer of Twenty-Five Cents. Edwin E. Brophy, a conductor on the Sea Gate & Manhattan Beach line, Coney Island, has returned to his owner a pouch containing \$1,500. The owner, a well-dressed woman, attempted to reward his honesty by offering him a quarter.

Cuts Off His Own Leg.

Carlo Nervi, a young butcher of Genoa, Italy, having contracted a disease of the leg which baffled the doctors, became frightened at the appearance of blood poisoning marks, locked himself in his room, and tying a handkerchief under his knee, with a sharp knife severed the lower part of his limb, taking care to stop the flow of blood from the arteries. A surgeon, who was summoned, found that the operation had been well performed and the young man is rapidly recovering.

Welcome Music.

Kansas has over 18,000 pianos, mostly playing harvest time music.

LOOT PREHISTORIC TOWNS

Archaeologists Are Up in Arms Because Biotic Hunters Take Away Valuable Scientific Material. Archaeologists are much perturbed by the persistent looting of the prehistoric towns of Arizona by relic hunters, and they have been urged to urge their preservation by legislative action for the benefit of students of ethnology. Valuable scientific material is being taken away from the prehistoric inhabitants beyond the reach of ethnologists. Among the groups which the archaeologists wish to preserve are several between Flagstaff and Black Falls, in the Little Colorado River valley. These consist of a cradle and buildings evidently devoted to a number of different purposes. The structures, as a rule, are small, with low walls the largest not being more than three stories high. The stone is closely together and show signs of having been dressed into shape. Apparently the rooms of the lower stories are entered from the roof and never from lateral doors. When windows were present they were mere lookouts, or small rectangular openings, which would admit scanty light. The roofs apparently were flat. The most impressive of the masses of aboriginal masonry in this region is about five miles due west of Flagstaff. The ruin stands above the plain and is visible for many miles. From a distance perched on a low red sandstone mesa, the top of which is 15 feet above the plain, it resembles an old castle. At its highest point this ruin was evidently three stories high, or at least had three rooms one above the other. The walls are fine examples of primitive masonry, due care having been taken to bind the corners and otherwise tie the walls together.

BOULANGER'S HORSE DEAD.

Equine Spots to Music and Expresses on Spot Where He Nearly Upset France. A column of troops marched past the blazing sun was Mme. Leconte, who had been to the Paris market to buy supplies for her grocery store. At the sound of the drums and the sight of the red-legged soldiers in the Place de la Concorde the old horse came to life. He pranced and trotted to the head of the marching column, nearly shaking Mme. Leconte off the seat. Half way across the square the horse stopped, his knees gave way and he fell dead. Mme. Leconte was thrown to the ground. The soldiers marched around the wreck and laughed. In front of the Assises court just 17 years ago, almost to a day, the same black horse nearly upset the government of France. On that day he pranced through the Place de la Concorde carrying on his back Gen. Boulanger, then the idol of the masses, who came within an ace of being another Napoleon. They called Boulanger "the man on horseback." The man died an excited suicide in Brussels. The horse died in a humble oblation and it died on the scene of his great triumph.

NOVEL LINES OF INSURANCE

New York Underwriter Proposes to Have Policies Issued Providing Against Bad Weather. Insurance enterprise is branching out in novel directions. One broker of New York city who has played much surplus fire insurance with Lloyd's, London, is sounding the proprietors of the beach resorts in that vicinity in regard to Sunday weather insurance. He proposes to have issued by Lloyd's a policy providing a specified indemnity for loss of receipts due to weather so bad that it will keep the crowds away and thus lessen profits. There will be about ten more Sundays during the present summer resort season, and those interested in the business are said to always look to the latter end of the summer for their profits. Another unusual line for which several prominent companies have made offers is the insurance of the wagons and horses of retail butchers and grocers. The terms offered are 2 1/2 per cent a year on all risks, the minimum to be \$400 and the amount of insurance to be paid at the end of 30 days after loss by theft if the property has not been recovered and returned to the owner. The horses and wagons will be insured only while in actual service in the delivery of goods. There are about 6,000 retail butchers and grocers in the city and Charles Thomas, editor of the Retail Grocers' Advocate, says they have lost within 18 months more than 200 horses and wagons of an average value of \$200.

Long Business Trip.

George A. Hill, a former resident of Orange, N. J., who he was a prominent lumber merchant, has returned home after a long business trip to the interior of Africa and Australia. For several years he has been frequently away from him in Orange, and after that time he would come home after three months, when a letter was received saying that he would probably be home some day. He was not expected to return so soon, and when he announced himself to the members of his family they were much surprised. His wife and six children are alive and there are several grandchildren. He is now 63 years old and is perfectly healthy.